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Hafa Adai!

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75¢

BROADBAND SURVEY SAYS:

87 pct of CNMI homes have Internet

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

» Labor force findings show 17 pct adult unemployment rate

The latest Broadband Survey released by the Department of Commerce showed that Internet use in the Commonwealth has increased in the last three years and that the unemployment rate in the CNMI is currently at 17 percent.

According to the 2014 Broadband Survey, the jump of Internet usage was considerable.

"The percentage of persons having Internet at home jumped from about 68 percent in 2011 to about 87 percent in 2014," the survey said.

The study surveyed 1,542 households, a sample that was said to be large enough to have a fairly low sampling error.

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FIX THE LEAK

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has completed the repairs of a 16-inch main water line near As Terlaje Hill. In this photo taken last Tuesday, the crew was busy fixing the leak which took all night to fully restore.

See story on Page 6

Club 88 Mariana sues Kan Pacific, DPL, BSI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The owner of e-gaming facility Club 88 Mariana is suing the owner of Mariana Resort & Spa and Best Sunshine International, Ltd. for allegedly not informing the company of Best Sunshine's negotiation to purchase the resort.

Saipan Entertainment LLC, owner of Club 88 Marianas, is suing Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd., which owns Mariana Resort & Spa; and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, which is doing business as Best Sunshine International.

Kan Pacific and then-Department of Public Lands Secretary Pedro A. Tenorio were the two defendants in the original complaint.

Saipan Entertainment later amended the complaint that named Imperial Pacific as co-defendant with Kan Pacific, while Tenorio was replaced by acting DPL secretary Marianne C. Tere-

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Torres: DC trip was series of meetings

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Governor didn't ask for extension of CW program

» Don't want 20 people on each side of 902 talks

Torres

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' trip to the nation's capitol last month was a series of meetings with officials over issues of immigration, environment, and federal aid for the CNMI. Torres also got an update on late governor Eloy S. Inos' request for direct consultation with the White House on issues of immigration and the military training in the CNMI.

Torres disclosed as much in an interview with reporters Tuesday, but also had some pointed words for the congressional delegation that visited the CNMI, while he was on his trip.

That CODEL, from the largest subcommittee in the U.S. House Armed Services committee, was led by Readiness chair Readiness subcommittee chair Rob Wittman (R-VA 1st

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INSIDE

LOCAL

Marianas Baptist Academy's Victoria Nicole Santos will join two other CNMI bets in the Pacific Territories' finals of the National Geographic Bee.

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BUSINESS

The U.S. government calls it a "vicious guard dog" that hurts national security.

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NATION

Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton swept through the South on Super Tuesday.

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Local

NMC search committee: Former presidents can reapply

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

JON PEREZ

Northern Marianas College Board of Regents member Maria Malua T. Peter, center, meets with members of the NMC Presidential Search Committee that is chaired by Cynthia I. Deleon Guerrero, right, yesterday morning at the NMC BOR's conference room.

The Northern Marianas College Presidential Search Committee is not limiting their hunt for the next chief executive officer of the college and even gave former applicants the chance to try their luck anew in securing the top post.

This was according to SC chairperson Cynthia I. Deleon Guerrero who will lead a 10-member panel that is tasked to painstakingly screen the applicants. They will also be making the recommendation to the Board of Regents, which will then choose who among the candidates will be NMC's next president.

"We have no preference. All are welcome to apply as long as they are qualified applicants. Regardless of being previous applicants for the position," said Deleon Guerrero in a brief talk with the media during a break on their meeting yesterday at the NMC Board of Regents' conference room.

"There are already some applicants and the committee will review all of their credentials and working experience. The job vacancy announcement also came out two weeks ago," she added.

Gemma Noelani Somol (NMC student), Amanda Diaz and Patty Coleman (NMC faculty), Daisie Camacho-Renguul (NMC staff), lawyer Michael Evangelista (NMC alumni), NMC-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service program dean Dr. Tim Kock (NMC administration), CNMI State Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Velma Ann M. Palacios, and former senator Maria Frica Pangelinan are the other SC members.

Deleon Guerrero said they decided not to limit the SC members to the faculty, staff, and students of NMC but rather coming from various sectors to ensure the full participation of the community.

"The selection committee comes from different parts for the full participation of the community. Not only from the NMC faculty, staff, students, and management. This was not done before," said Deleon Guerrero.

She added that the SC would follow the procedures and processes that are stated on the NMC Board of Regents' amended resolution No. 2016-02. She also assured that the SC is prepared for all possible scenarios in the event the chosen candidate backs out.

Dr. Sharon Hart has already taken a leave of absence as NMC president early last month. Board of Regents chair Frank Rabauliman appointed NMC dean of Administration and Resource Development David J. Attao to serve in acting capacity.

Hart, who received a vote of no confidence twice while serving as president of the North Dakota State College of Science, was hired in 2011 after the first choice backed out. She replaced Dr. Carmen Fernandez, who was terminated as NMC president.

Judge wants to resolve tax issue on Settlement Fund, NMC matter

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood wants to resolve the issue on whether the NMI Settlement Fund is a tax-exempt entity.

Tydingco-Gatewood also wants to hear Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C. H. Tang's motion to enforce final judgment approving Betty Johnson's class action settlement agreement against Northern Marianas College.

The judge ordered that the matters be set for hearing on Tuesday, March 8, at 9am.

NMC counsel may appear at the courthouse on Saipan.

Tydingco-Gatewood said she will hold the hearing by video teleconferencing.

The issues were originally set for a hearing last Jan. 21, but because of the judge's scheduling needs, the proceeding was vacated.

According to Tang and Johnson's class counsel, Robert M. Hatch, the Settlement Fund is tax-exempt because the settlement agreement in the class action expressly provides for the appointment of a "person to act as an officer of the District Court to be the trustee of the Settlement Fund."

Tang said the audit for the Settlement Fund for fiscal year 2014 by Ernst & Young began in January 2015 and has been completed.

However, Tang said, because of a disagreement between the CNMI government and the Settlement Fund on the tax issue, the completion of the audit has been delayed.

The Office of the Attorney General asked the court to hold off on deciding the tax issue, saying it should refer that decision to the director of Revenue and Taxation.

However, if the court proceeds with deciding the issue, the CNMI government's position is that the Settlement Fund is a tax-exempt entity, according to assistant attorney general Teresita Sablan.

On the NMC issue, the college is opposing Tang's request to compel it to comply with the settlement agreement in Johnson's class action by paying employer contributions and penalties in the amount of $75,080.79. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

CANCELLED

No.: 2016-02

It is the policy of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission that the personnel system shall be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution and Federal Civil Rights Laws regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

Position: In-House Legal Counsel
Opening Date: 02/24/16 **Closing Date:** 03/11/16
Salary: $70,000.00 per annum **Pay Level:** Ungraded
Location: Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, Tinian, MP 96952 USA

Duties & Responsibilities: The In-House Legal Counsel for the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission is responsible for representing the Commission in legal matters involving the administration of the Revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act of 1989. The primary duties of this position include advising and representing the Commission on all matters relating to the casino regulation on Tinian for the Commission's review and ensure that the Commission policies and regulations are adopted in compliance with the law. Legal Counsel shall conduct research and issue legal opinions on a variety of matters relating to administrative and casino gaming regulation, and provide training to the Commission and staff on legal matters, and prepare memorandums and correspondences for the Commission and Executive Director and perform other related duties as assigned by the Chairman of the Commission.

Qualifications: Graduation from a US accredited college or university with a Juris Doctorate degree. Applicant must a be member in good standing with the CNMI Bar or a member of a state bar and qualify to practice law in the CNMI. The applicant must have at least 3 years legal work experience as a practicing attorney, preferably for government entities and/or experience in gaming regulation. Pass the pre-employment drug testing and other applicable standards, pursuant to the TCGCC Personnel Regulations.

Special Conditions of Employment: Employment will be undertaken pursuant to TCGCC Personnel Regulations including, but not limited to, Article 3: Section 3-108(1): "There are special conditions and standards of employment which are considered implicit to successful performance in certain positions. These conditions may relate to unusual hours of work, physical or medical standards, maintenance of a license and health certificate, availability during non-standard working hours or need to frequently travel."

INTERESED INDIVIDUALS MAY OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION AT THE TCGCC MAIN OFFICE IN TINIAN. THE COMPLETED EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION AND ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, RESUME, SCHOOL DIPOLMA(S) OR TRANSCRIPTS, AND POLICE CLEARANCE MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE PERSONNEL SPECIALIST OR ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT THE TCGCC MAIN OFFICE WHILE POSITION IS STILL OPEN.

TCGCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EXTEND OR CANCEL THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, WITH OR WITHOUT CAUSE.

Health officials looking into possible ciguatera fish poisoning

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Health officials are looking into and will be conducting an investigation on the recent possible ciguatera fish poisoning on Saipan last week.

According to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Division of Public Health, they have "collected all patient information and have done an investigation to be compiled as soon as all pertinent information have been gathered for Epi review and mitigation needed."

DPH-Bureau of Environmental Health officer John Tagabuel said preliminary report showed that the fish was eaten at an unregulated restaurant.

"Let me be clear, the preliminary report gathered by CHCC Epi-team as reported in CHCC ER daily entries indicates that fish was eaten at a BEH none regulated venue," Tagabuel said.

Tagabuel said that there were nine individuals involved in the incident.

"All nine individuals ate the same fish. All nine were seen at CHCC-ER and subsequently released. Eight of the nine individuals are identified as tourists. The symptoms fit classical case of ciguatera, as in diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain," Tagabuel said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Environmental Health states that ciguatera fish poisoning, or ciguatera, is an illness caused by eating fish that contain toxins produced by a marine microalgae called *Gambierdiscus toxicus.*

"People who have ciguatera may experience nausea, vomiting, and neurologic symptoms such as tingling fingers or toes. They also may find that cold things feel hot and hot things feel cold. Ciguatera has no cure. Symptoms usually go away in days or weeks but can last for years," CDC said.

However, Tagabuel said that this hasn't been confirmed with the victims yet.

"At this point, that hasn't been confirmed with any of the ill-individuals," Tagabuel said.

He added that descriptions of the victims of the fish they ate seem to fit that of a barracuda, but no confirmation if this type of fish indeed caused the food poisoning.

"The individuals described the eaten fish in the ER report. It appears to fit the description of a barracuda," Tagabuel said.

"Barracuda is a known predatory bottom feeder species. It's common knowledge that barracuda is highly toxic," he added.

CDC-NCEH also lists barracuda to have been known to carry ciguatoxins—along with black grouper, blackfin snapper, cubera snapper, dog snapper, greater amberjack, hogfish, horse-eye jack, king mackerel, and yellowfin grouper, among others.

Tagabuel said BEH has been planning to conduct outreach to the local tour guide regarding potentially toxic fish.

"Unfortunately, at this stage, BEH haven't conducted the outreach to local tour guide or company to educate them on the potentially toxic fish," Tagabuel said.

Missouri-based firm wants to be heard for restitution vs Melvin Ada

Midwest Medical Supply Co. Inc., a Missouri-based company that had supplied dialysis and consumables and equipment to the Commonwealth Health Center, wants to be heard regarding restitution payment from Melvin G. Ada, a former Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. employee who was slapped with 12.7 years in prison for stealing over $1.7 million from CHCC that was intended for Midwest Medical Supply.

Attorney Richard W. Pierce, counsel for MMS, has requested the U.S. District Court for the NMI to allow the company, through counsel, to appear at the restitution hearing on March 11, 2016.

Pierce asked the court to permit MMS' present testimony by video conferencing—solely related to the issue of restitution for MMS.

Normally, the lawyer said, the U.S. government promotes restitution for victims in this type of proceeding.

In this perhaps unusual case, Pierce said, the U.S. government opposes restitution for MMS while the U.S. Probation Office supports it.

Pierce said neither the U.S. government nor Ada opposes MMS request to appear.

Ada was previously assigned as a medical supply specialist at CHC. His wife, Leyda, used to be a sales representative for MMS.

Leyda was acquitted last June of charges of conspiracy to commit laundering and money laundering. The jury, however, found her guilty of perjury. She has yet to be sentenced.

The court has granted the U.S. government's motion for money judgment in the amount of $1.8 million, representing the total gross proceeds Ada obtained as a result of his criminal conduct. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Lecture on Ritidian archaeological research today

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council cordially invites the public to a presentation by visiting archaeologist Dr. Mike Carson that will be held at Charley's Cabaret, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, this evening, March 3, from 6 to 8 pm.

Carson will share the results of his recent archaeological research at the Ritidian (Litekyan) Archaeological Site on the northernmost tip of Guam, which holds a continuous record of 3,500 years of cultural history of the Mariana Islands.

This site, now a part of the Ritidian Unit of the Guam National Wildlife Refuge, is well known for its many painted images inside caves, as well as for the remains of a latte village last occupied in the 1600s during the time of early Spanish contact.

Beneath the surface, the site also possesses deep and ancient layers dating back 3,500 years, when the Mariana Islands were first inhabited by people coming from Island Southeast Asia.

These layers possess a wide variety of ceramic, bone, stone, and shell artifacts including unique types associated with the earliest settlement of the island.

Carson's research provides a look into what life was like at the site at different points of time.

The archaeological evidence shows how people adjusted to the changing conditions of sea level and their environment, how they built different kinds of houses and villages, and how they lived in their evolving landscape over more than three thousand years.

Carson is a visiting Associate Professor of Archaeology at the University of Guam and a faculty of the Australian National Museum.

Carson and his wife, Dr. Hsiao-chun Hung, have authored several published works relating to their research including "First Settlement of Remote Oceania: Earliest Sites in the Marianas."

This presentation is sponsored by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council as a part of its ongoing Community Lecture Series. It is open to the public and free of charge.

For more information about this upcoming event, please call council staff at 235-4785. ***(PR)***

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TORRES

From Page 1

District) and Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU). The two members trumpeted that military training in the Marianas meant more security for the region and economic opportunity.

"It is our responsibility to tell them what is good for us, not the other way around," Torres said, when asked if he appreciated the visit.

If I am not mistaken, from the information I gathered, Congresswoman Bordallo came to Saipan telling us what is good for us with the military. I can tell you that on behalf of the government and the people of the CNMI, we are very sensitive to the type of military proposals" that are on the table.

Among others, the Department of Defense plans to use Tinian for live-fire ranges and to lease the entire island of Pagan for these purposes.

"We are just thankful now that the Air Force has come in and wants to do the divert airfield only on Tinian and so we are waiting for that. But we in the CNMI and the government will be communicating with the military and it is our obligation to make sure they hear our concerns and what we are willing to assist [with] our military family as well," Torres said.

902

Torres gave an update on the pending request for direct consultation with the White House on issues of immigration and military build up in the Commonwealth.

"They are bucking on down on who [will be] representing" them "on those two items," Torres told reporters Tuesday, and described the team he'd be putting together for talks between the White House and CNMI.

"Pete A., former DPL [secretary Pedro A. Tenorio] will be one of your consultants for the 902 talks. He's been there. He has the institutional knowledge. I'm in constant talk with some of the legislators, specifically, those that are chairing the federal relations" committees," Torres said. "Our legal counsel, Wes [Bogdan] will be joining us. I have not officially invited any one on this, however we continue to have a dialogue, because there are so many interests to join on these 902 talks. But as much as I'd like to accommodate everyone, it's actually a fairly handful of people that would be on the table to negotiate."

Torres emphasized they "don't want 20" people "on each side" in the talks.

"That's the reason why I haven't invited specific individuals because I would like to see the guidelines proposed by the President regarding the 902 talks," Torres said. "What are the guidelines, what are the scopes of work, those are the information I need to base our decision on who should go and the number of participants."

Immigration

Torres also met with immigration officials like Leon Rodriguez, director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, discussing issues ahead of the end of the local contract worker program in 2019.

"We didn't ask for an extension," Torres said, when asked. "No, we didn't. The reason why is—we came to D.C. to acknowledge that we in the government are also doing our due diligence to encourage our business partners, our government, to hire local, to hire U.S. citizens.

"And if we show we are doing what we can to the best that we can, and in the end we still have that shortage," he added, "we can go ahead and ask for that extension."

Torres said the critical part of the issue was that Congress took away the authority of the U.S. secretary of the Department of Labor to extend the program past 2019.

Public Law 110-229—transferred local immigration control to the federal government and allowed for a transition period to end in 2014. That transition period was extended last year to 2019, the current and absolute deadline the CNMI now faces.

Torres emphasized that any extension of the worker program has to be requested through U.S. Congress.

"That's the biggest" thing," he said. "We continue to lobby to give that back to the secretary of Labor to make that determination whether an extension is needed or not."

Torres said they also echoed concerns of CNMI's infrastructure and business development that were "hampered" because of a slow-going permitting process.

While Torres said he thanked USCIS for a 240-day rule to allow contract workers to continue working if USCIS had not yet processed their papers past the permit expiration, he noted that the rule was only applicable to the current CW worker pool, and not the ones requested for looming development.

"We've had [delays] for several months already and that has been hampering our development. We did echo that concern. We also asked, is there anyway the CNMI government can be part of the process, or at least [to have] for us to know where our applicants are [in permitting process] and if we can give special attention and effort to expedite those papers and applicants," Torres said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CLUB 88

From Page 1

geyo as co-defendant.

In the amended complaint, Saipan Entertainment is suing Kan Pacific for breach of contract, unjust enrichment, and fraudulent nondisclosure.

Saipan Entertainment is suing DPL secretary and DPL in order to enjoin the CNMI government from consenting to any assignment of the resort lease or the resort property until the controversy surrounding the validity of the resort lease is resolved.

Saipan Entertainment is suing Imperial Pacific International for intentional interference with contract.

On Tuesday, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio placed under advisement Kan Pacific's motion to compel and Saipan Entertainment's motion for a protective order.

In Kan Pacific's motion to compel, attorney Joseph J. Iacopino asked the court to compel Saipan Entertainment's sole member, Victoria Scott, and her designees, to produce the requested documents and submit to the taking of depositions.

Deposition refers to the taking testimony of a witness outside of court.

In Saipan Entertainment's motion for a protective order, attorney Daniel T. Guidotti requested the court to protect the company and Scott from being forced to respond to deposition topics that are not specified with reasonable particularity.

Attorney Viola Alepuyo appeared as counsel for Imperial Pacific. Attorney Christopher C. Timmons appeared as counsel for DPL.

Kan Pacific also filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit. Iacopino asserted that Saipan Entertainment has failed to establish any breach of its purported sublease or any actual damages and is actually conducting its business uninterrupted at this time.

Iacopino said Saipan Entertainment has admitted in its complaint that Kan Pacific and Imperial Pacific have not consummated any agreement.

Iacopino said clearly, Saipan Entertainment is asking the court to get involved in "a matter that is premature, not ripe, hypothetical, and speculative."

In Saipan Entertainment's lawsuit, Guidotti asked the court to issue an order enjoining Kan Pacific and its agents from transferring the resort lease and the resort lease to Imperial Pacific or any other third party unless and until the prospective transferee agrees to assume all of the contractual provisions of the sublease.

Guidotti requested the court to enjoin the DPL and its secretary from approving any transfer of any part of the resort lease from Kan Pacific to Imperial Pacific or any other third party unless or until the prospective transferee agrees to assume all of the contractual provisions of the sublease.

Guidotti said if the court determines that the sublease is valid, Saipan Entertainment should be awarded money sufficient to compensate for the company's damages.

According to Guidotti in the complaint, on Dec. 15, 1977, Kan Pacific leased 146 hectares of public land from the CNMI government (resort lease) to develop the Mariana Resort & Spa.

Guidotti said the resort lease was to end in April 2003, but in March 2003, the Marianas Public Lands Authority, entered into an extension of the resort lease.

The lease was extended for 15 years. It terminates in April 2018.

Guidotti said that on Dec. 18, 2013, Kan Pacific and Saipan Entertainment entered into a commercial sublease agreement.

Under the agreement, Kan Pacific agreed to lease a commercial space at Mariana Resort to Saipan Entertainment for its Club 88 Mariana facility.

Club 88 Mariana began its business operations on Nov. 20, 2015.

Guidotti said Saipan Entertainment invested more than $1 million in the Club 88 Mariana facility.

Guidotti said sometime in October 2015, stories began appearing in *Saipan Tribune* and *Marianas Variety*, indicating that Imperial Pacific or Best Sunshine was interested in purchasing Kan Pacific's remaining interest in the resort property.

The lawyer said by mid-November, new stories appeared in the two newspapers, indicating that Imperial Pacific and Kan Pacific had entered into negotiations regarding Kan Pacific's remaining 2.5 years under the resort lease.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

HOMES

From Page 1

As the survey was also used to assess the current labor force situation, the sample size was about four times as large as the 2011 sample, in order to obtain sufficient households for labor force participation and unemployment.

"Because the CNMI had not had a labor force survey since the 2010 census, [the Central Statistics Division] decided to add additional variables to assess the current labor force situation," the study said.

Broadband use

The report shows a comprehensive broadband map that covers Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

In summary, the report said "Broadband use is now expected by households in the CNMI. In 2014, more than half the households had broadband, and most of the others would have liked to have it, if it was available, and if it came at a reasonable cost. If household members did not have Internet at home, most found another venue to access the outside world."

Survey results said about four out of every five households had some kind of computer or 1,247 of the total households in the sample.

"Desktops were most common on Tinian, at 7 of 10 households, compared to about 6 of every 10 households on the other two islands. Desktops were about 3 of every 5 households in this part of the sample, Handhelds were about 1 in 5, and those with no computers were most of the rest," the survey said.

About four in every five had at least one member who used the Internet and Internet use was extremely frequent in the Commonwealth that year, according to the survey.

"More than half—in fact 58 percent—of all the households that had at least one person using the Internet (1,146 of the 1,542 total households in the sample) used the Internet "several times a day." About 3 in 10 used the Internet either once a day or 3 to 5 times a week. Only about 1 in 10 households used the internet less frequently," the survey said.

Labor force: 17 pct unemployed

With regards to the labor force, the survey said about 17 percent of the adults were unemployed.

"About 72 percent of the adult population—those 16 years and over—were in the labor force, including 77 percent of the males and 67 percent of the females," the survey said.

"For the youngest potential workers, those 15 to 29 years old, about half were in the labor force, but half were not in the labor force (many of them still in school)," it added.

The survey said that "the question used to obtain the labor force differed from the usual question in obtaining labor force participation and unemployment; nonetheless, the rates seem reasonable."

Overall, the survey noted that the labor force in the Commonwealth that year "was not particularly good, particularly for those who wanted to work but could not find jobs."

"An unemployment rate of 17 percent is very high by United States standards although not by Third World standards; about 1 in every 6 potential workers could not find jobs. And, more than 1 in 4 of all adults were not working, some of them presumably having given up looking," the survey said.

This project was made possible through funding assistance from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration as part of the State Broadband Initiative and work was performed by staff hired and supervised by CSD with assistance from Dr. Michael J. Levin of East West Center Pacific Islands Development Program.

"This report provides data that can be used by our local government and private investors to leverage resources that can bring CNMI a step closer to fulfilling President Obama's Broadband Initiative goals by providing affordable high speed broadband to many of our island residents. I am excited about the tremendous economic benefits that future technology and innovations can bring to our islands," Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said.

Secretary of Commerce Mr. Mark O. Rabauliman extended his gratitude to all those who responded and provided the information for this report as well as his team at the Central Statistics Division and the Resident Commerce staff on Rota and Tinian and the temporary hired survey staff.

"Their information is crucial as we find ways to improve our quality of life and this report is, as well as many other reports that my office publishes, meant for that purpose," Rabauliman said.

The full report can be viewed online at the Commerce website: commerce.gov.mp, under Central Statistics Division's Other Reports section.

MBA's Santos, 2 others finalists in Geographic Bee

JON PEREZ

Marianas Baptist Academy's seventh grader Victoria Nicole Santos, right, is among three CNMI bets in the final 10 of the National Geographic Bee contest for Pacific Territories. MBA's English and history teacher Manuel Castro, left, is helping Santos review for the April 1 finals.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas Baptist Academy's Victoria Nicole Santos will join two other CNMI bets in the Pacific Territories' finals of the National Geographic Bee. The final test will be held on April 1 with the winner representing the Pacific Territories in the national finals in Washington, D.C. on May 22.

Grace Christian Academy-Saipan's Jabez Victoria, who is also part of her school's champion team in the 14th Annual CNMI Academic Challenge Bowl, and Hopwood Junior High School's Xue Zhen Qiu will join Santos after also qualifying for the final test.

Guam's Katherine Cruz (Bishop Baumgartner Memorial Catholic School), Napu Blas (Captain Henry B. Price Elementary School), and Brian Chan (Harvest Christian Academy) and American Samoa's Sitivi Wong Mageo (Manumalo Baptist Academy), Tovi'o Aufata (Olomoana Elementary School), Victor Chen (Pacific Horizons School), and Aiden Siuloa (U.P. Coleman Elementary School) are the other finalists from the Pacific Territories.

Airfare, hotel accommodations, and meals will be provided for the winning Pacific Territories representative.

Santos, whose favorite subject is mathematics, said she really likes joining various academic competitions. She is also part of MBA's MathCourt and Academic Bowl teams.

"I find history and geography interesting subjects since you learn a lot when studying the historical importance of a particular place and the people who lived there," said Santos, who topped the school's competition last December by besting 25 other students from the sixth to eight grades

"I studied a lot for this. I read a lot of books where I memorized important dates and places. I just wanted to win this," added Santos, who also became the CNMI MathCourt team's fourth member after her score was miscalculated during last month's competition.

Santos, who is also on the President's List, finished fourth after her score was computed again dropping GCA's Harry Noh to one of the four alternates—Agape Christian School's Duojia Yu, Seongbeom Song, and Ki Chang Jeoung.

ACS swept the Top 3 with Frederic Dean Michael Guintu, Quing Yuan Wang, and Da Wei Cai leading Team CNMI in the national finals in set this weekend in San Francisco.

"She earned the fourth spot after we informed Dora Miura. They clarified and checked her score, and they found out that there was an error on the computation," said MBA's history and English teacher Manuel Castro, who is also Santos' coach.

The 12-year-old Santos, who transferred from ACS this school year, said that she has mixed emotions for next month's Geographic Bee finals for Pacific Territories. "I'm nervous and at the same time excited. I usually play with my brothers and watch television to relax myself."

HANMI occupancy up 4 pct in January

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 95.18 percent occupancy among 11 member hotels for January 2016, a 4-percent increase compared to January 2015.

Cavanagh

HANMI said 68,132 of 71,579 available room nights were sold in January 2016, compared to 65,091 of 71,424 available room nights sold over the same period last year. Room rates were $161.85 during the month, compared to $159.42 last January.

"We are very close to setting a new record for hotel room rates, a level we haven't seen since before the Asian economic crisis in the 1990s," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh. "As I've said before, our members have a proven track record of building—and now rebuilding—the tourism economy in our community. We'd like to see the government give our member hotels with expiring public land leases the opportunity to stay in business by offering the opportunity to negotiate new leases. As the data shows, it works for the CNMI."

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the NMI. ***(PR)***

GPPC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(01) Accounting Technician: $6.10 - $7.50/hour
College graduate with at least five years experience as an Accounting Technician. Capable of performing combined routine calculations, posting and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data and maintain accounting records.

(01) Administrative Assistant: $6.10 - $7.50/hour
Must be a college graduate with a minimum of two years experience. Knowledgeable on construction business. Preferably someone who can operate Microsoft Office & Power Point Programs.

(02) Architectural Drafter Technician: $6.10 - $8.25/hour
College graduate with a minimum of five years experience as an Architectural Technician. Able to prepare detailed drawings of architectural/structural features of buildings, as well as drawings and photographic relief of maps used in civil engineering projects such as, highways, bridges and other public works. Knowledgeable on building materials, engineering practices and mathematics used to complete drawing drafts.

(04) Auto Body Repairer: $6.10 - $6.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with at least two to five years experience as an Auto Body Repairer. Knowledgeable on repairing and refinishing automotive vehicle bodies and straightening vehicle frames.

(02) Automobile Electrician: $6.10 - $6.75/hour
A minimum of five years work related experience. Able to diagnose and undertake electrical repairs on a wide variety of vehicles and heavy equipment. Must be knowledgeable on electric motor, alternator, starter, and motor rewinding.

(40) Carpenters: $6.10 - $7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with a minimum of five years experience as a Carpenter. Knowledgeable on constructing, erecting, installing, and/or repairing structures and fixtures made of wood including: concrete forms, building frameworks, partitions, joists, studding, rafters, wooden stairways, windows, door frames, and hardwood floors.

(4) Civil Engineering Technician: $6.10 - $8.25/hour
College graduate with a minimum of two years experience as a Civil Engineering Technician. Able to apply Theory and Principles of Civil Engineering in planning, designing, and overseeing construction, structure maintenance and facilities under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientist.

(01) Construction Manager: $3,125.00
Must be a college graduate or with a minimum of five year's experience as a Construction Manager, including managers in specialized construction fields, such as, carpentry or plumbing. Knowledgeable on planning, directing, and coordinating activities concerning construction and maintenance of structures, facilities, and systems with subordinate supervisory personnel. Able to participate in the conceptual development of a construction projects and oversee its organizations such as, scheduling, budgeting, and implementation.

(01) Diesel Fuel Injection Pump Technician: $6.10 - $7.25/hour
High School Graduate with a minimum of five years work related experience. Must be knowledgeable on repairing diesel fuel injector components, including pumps, injectors and turbochargers. Able to diagnose, service and maintain fuel injection systems.

(01) Diesel Mechanic: $6.10/hour
Must be a high school graduate with at least five years work-related experience.

(17) Electrician: $6.10 - $7.15/hour
Must be a high school graduate with a minimum of two years experience as an Electrician. Knowledgeable on installing, maintaining and repairing electrical wirings, equipment and other fixtures. Able to install or service street lights, intercom systems, and electrical control systems.

(2) Electrical Engineering Technician: $6.10 - $6.50/hour
College graduate with a minimum of two years experience as a Electrical Engineering Technician. Able to apply Theory and Principles of Electrical Engineering in planning, designing, and overseeing construction, structure maintenance and facilities under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientist.

(3) General Maintenance: $6.10 - $6.35/hour
High school graduate with at least five years experience as a General Maintenance. Able to install various equipment.

(15) Heavy Equipment Mechanic: $6.10 - $7.50/hour
High school graduate with a minimum of five years experience as a Heavy Equipment Mechanic. Knowledgeable on diagnosing, adjusting, repairing, and overhauling automobiles, cranes, bulldozers, graders, excavators, trucks, conveyors and other heavy equipment typically used in construction.

(30) Heavy Equipment Operator: $6.10 - $7.15/hour
High school graduate with at least two years experience as a Heavy Equipment Operator. Must be knowledgeable on operating several types of power construction equipment such as, motor graders, bulldozers, trenching machines, scrapers, compressors, pumps, derricks, shovel tractors and front-end loaders to excavate, move and grade earth, erect structures, pour concretes and etc.

(02) Machinist: $6.10/hour
A high school graduate with at least five years experience as a Machinist.

(40) Mason: $6.10 - $7.00/hour
High school graduate with a minimum of three years experience as a Mason. Knowledgeable on smoothing and finishing poured concretes such as, floors, walks, sidewalks, roads and curbs using variety of hand and power tools. Able to align forms for sidewalks, curbs, gutters, patch voids and use various saws to cut expansion joints.

(03) Mechanical Engineering Technician: $6.10 - $6.50/hour
College graduate with a minimum of two years experience as a Mechanical Engineering Technician. Able to apply Theory and Principles of Mechanical Engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction, structure maintenance and other facilities under the direction of engineering staff or physical scientist.

(10) Painter: $6.10 - $6.55/hour
A high school graduate with a minimum of five years experience as a Painter. Knowledgeable on operating and tending to various painting machines. Able to paint transportation equipment surfaces like automobiles, buses, trucks, trains, boats, airplanes and etc.

(20) Plumber: $6.10 - $7.50/hour
A high school graduate with a minimum of five years experience as a Plumber. With knowledge to install, assemble, alter and repair pipelines that carry water, steam, air, or other liquids and gasses. Able to install heating and cooling equipment and mechanical control system.

(01) Q.C. Asphalt Paving Technician: $6.10 - $6.50/hour
A high school graduate with a minimum of two years work-related experience.

(02) Rigger: $6.10 /hour
A high school graduate with a minimum of two years work-related experience.

(01) Sheet Metal Worker: $6.10 - $6.75/hour
A high school graduate with a minimum of two years experience as a Sheet Metal Worker. Must be knowledgeable on installing pre-fabricated sheet metal ducts used for heating, air-conditioning equipment and etc.

(8) Steel Worker: $6.10 - $7.25/hour
A high school graduate with a minimum of five years experience as a Steel Worker. Knowledgeable on rising, placing, and uniting iron and steel girders, R-columns and other structural members to form a complete structures or structural frameworks. Able to erect metal storage tanks and assemble pre-fabricated metal buildings. Position and secure steel bars or mesh in concrete forms in order to reinforce concrete structures.

(02) Tower Crane Operator: $6.10 - $6.35/hour
A high school graduate with a minimum of two years work-related experience. Must be able to comply with all safety regulations and work with minimal supervision.

(2) Truck Driver: $6.10 - $7.10/hour
A high school graduate with at least two to five years experience as a Truck Driver. Able to drive a tractor, trailer and truck with a capacity of at least 26,000 GVW for various construction material transportation.

(16) Welder: $6.10 - $7.00/hour
Must be a high school graduate with a minimum of two years experience as a welder. Knowledgeable on using hand-welding, flame cutting, hand soldering, and other brazing equipment to weld or join metal components or to fill holes, indentations, or seams of fabricated metal products.

Interested applicants may apply at GPPC, INC. office located at As Perdido, Saipan, CNMI.
A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted.
Skills, testing maybe required. Salaries will commensurate to experience and qualifications.
Closing date will be on March 04, 2016.
GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Member of burglary crew gets 5 years in prison

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday resentenced Jeffrey Jindawong Lizama to the maximum of five years in prison for his role in the conspiracy to burglarize a warehouse in Afetnas and steal copper wire and other items.

Camacho ordered the 20-year-old Lizama to serve the prison term day to day without the possibility of parole.

Lizama was given credit for time served.

"The people of the CNMI cry out for justice against the epidemic of thefts, burglaries, and robberies. There can be no justice without the appropriate punishment," the judge said.

Camacho noted that Lizama was part of an experienced burglary crew, and that several members of the group are repeat offenders.

"When criminals band together, the potential for damage and harm is magnified. When criminals band together to commit a crime, it emboldens each member of the group," the judge said.

Camacho said a sentence of five years is appropriate because Lizama is an adult, who admitted to committing the crime.

Lizama was 18 years old when he committed the offense.

Camacho said no sentence is suspended and no parole is appropriate because defendant has already gotten the benefit in the plea agreement when all other charges were dismissed by the Office of the Attorney General amounting to possible jail sentence of over 30 years.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas recommended a prison term of three years plus other conditions.

Defense counsel David Banes recommended a prison term of three years with credit for three years time-served.

Camacho said the CNMI Supreme Court has ruled that a warehouse used for storage is considered an unoccupied structure, meaning that Lizama can only be sentenced to a possible maximum prison term of five years.

"This court is duty bound to faithfully follow the mandates of the CNMI Supreme Court," Camacho said.

The judge said Lizama is not a candidate for rehabilitation.

He noted that Lizama has prior conviction/adjudication in juvenile cases.

Camacho said those cases—containing some jail terms—but mostly suspended sentences fail to rehabilitate Lizama.

He said those lenient sentences in Lizama's prior case fail to be a significant deterrence.

The judge said Lizama requires a much longer sentence to insure that he fully understands his actions and is deterred from committing any future crimes.

Camacho said defendant's argument that "it's only a property crime" and not a crime of violence is unpersuasive.

Lizama has two other prior cases as a juvenile.

Camacho said defendant's own father states that defendant has a problem with stealing.

Camacho said after stealing and destroying over $4,000 worth of another person's property, the burglary crew got a grand total of $120, with each of the five members got an equal share of $20.

"Did defendant Lizama go and buy medicine or food for his family? No. Instead each member of the burglary crew went into a poker parlor to gamble," Camacho said.

Lizama was among the five defendants charged in the burglary at the warehouse of Han Nam, formerly known as the Onu Moda Factory, on Dec. 18 and 19, 2012.

Lizama and Mathias Salasiban pleaded guilty to burglary. In 2013, Camacho slapped the two with a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison with no parole.

Lizama and Salasiban appealed.

In 2014, the CNMI Supreme Court returned the case to Superior Court for resentencing because not ordering the presentence investigation report resulted in Salasiban receiving a sentence twice as long as the statutory maximum for the crime he committed.

With respect to Lizama's appeal, the high court ruled that warehouse use for storage is considered unoccupied structure and sentence can only be a maximum of five years in prison.

In June 2015, Camacho resentenced Salasiban to the maximum of five years in prison, to be served day to day without the possibility of parole.

The three co-defendants are Sonny Babauta, Fiden Hamo, and Petrus Anastacio.

Babauta went to trial and was convicted by the jury. He appealed his conviction. The appeal is still pending in the Supreme Court.

Hamo pleaded guilty in the burglary case and also in a rock-throwing incident. He was slapped with a five-year jail term.

Anastacio's charge of accessory after the fact to burglary was dismissed during the trial.

APEX BUILDERS, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Interested applicants may apply at APEX Builders, Inc. office located at GPPC Inc. building, As Perdido, Saipan, CNMI. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required. Salaries will commensurate to experience and qualifications. Closing date will be on March 04, 2016.
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Ruptured 16-inch main water line repaired

Repairs of the ruptured 16-inch main waterline which caused temporary water service interruption was completed yesterday, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Water distribution is expected to resume at 6am this morning, said acting executive director Gary Camacho, after more than a day of interrupted service.

"The hardworking crew of CUC worked all night to finish the repairs," Camacho said.

Last Tuesday, customers in Chalan Laulau, Beach Road, and Middle Road started experiencing temporary water service interruption resulting from a ruptured 16-inch water main below As Terlaje Hill in Chalan Monsignor Guerrero.

CUC Water Personnel discovered the line break when water began to seep out of the pavement along the innermost eastbound lane just below As Terlaje Hill.

Both eastbound lanes of Chalan Monsignor Guerrero were closed to traffic as crews excavated the site.

Customers in the village of Gualo Rai, on the other hand, will experience temporary water service interruption beginning today, Thursday, March 3.

CUC said the interruption will be from 8 am to 5 pm and is due to USA Fanter installing new pipes on the Gualo Rai Tank.

CUC said water service hours are expected to return back to regular schedule tomorrow. ***(Frauleine Villanueva-Dizon)***

IN THE AFTERMATH OF SOUDELOR

Jehovah's Witnesses volunteers help rebuild damaged homes

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Several Jehovah's Witnesses volunteers have been on Saipan since September where they helped in repairing several houses and rebuilding two more. The houses were either damaged or destroyed when Typhoon Soudelor hit Saipan in August last year.

Jehova's Witnesses volunteers constructed two new houses owned by Jimmy Rabauliman and his sister-in-law Bangon Rabauliman on Quartermaster Road, while three other houses in Chinatown, Gualo Rai, and Kagman received major repairs.

Members of the local congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses along with four more volunteers from Guam also helped in the minor repairs of several homes. They spent more than three months on Saipan to help in the rebuilding.

Ten more volunteers—four of which were married couples and two single men—from various countries have spent more than two months on Saipan. They came from Guam, Hawaii, California, Washington, Florida, and South Africa.

The volunteers all paid for their own airfare going to Saipan and all have been staying at homes of local members on the island. Donations given to their worldwide organization help fund the meals of the volunteers and the materials used in constructing the houses.

Mexico, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Kenya, Suriname, South Africa, and Chuuk in the Federated States of Micronesia are some of the countries that the volunteers have helped in various projects.

Jehovah's Witnesses volunteers have also helped in disaster relief efforts and various community outreach projects in Japan, Brazil, Congo, Venezuela, the Philippines, Canada, Ivory Coast, Fiji, Ghana, the U.S., Argentina, Mozambique, Nigeria, Benin, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Romania, Mali, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Czech Republic, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Burundi.

The Jehovah's Witnesses, founded in 1870 by Charles Taze Russell, has 8.2 million members spread out in the continents of Africa, North and South America, Asia, Europe, and Oceania.

JON PEREZ
Volunteers from the Jehovah's Witnesses assist in installing the ceiling of one of two houses they built in Quartermaster Road. The houses belong to Jimmy Rabauliman and his sister-in-law Bangon Rabauliman.

Local Democratic Party to hold caucus on March 12

The Democratic Party of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands yesterday announced that the Delegate Selection Plan for the Democratic Party Caucus will be held on March 12.

"We are excited for the opportunity to send delegates from the CNMI to the Democratic National Convention this summer," said CNMI Democratic Party chair Rosiky Camacho. "As part of that process, we want to put forward these rules to the public and to the campaigns for President that may be organizing in the CNMI to allow for participation in the process."

The CNMI has been allocated six at-large delegates to the Democratic National Convention to be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on July 25-28. At this convention the Democratic Party will formally select its nominee for President of the United States.

The March 12 caucus will be the first step in the CNMI's participation in this process. At the caucus, Democrats will elect delegates to attend the National Convention according to Presidential preference group. Nomination forms for delegates, and the rules for the caucuses contained in the party's Delegate Selection Plan, are available online at https://sites.google.com/site/cnmidemscaucus/.

"We hope that people will come out and participate on the 12th," Camacho said. The caucuses will be held at 6pm at the following locations:

Saipan:

■ Northern Marianas College Building/Room D-1

Tinian:

■ Residence of Mr. David Cing
San Jose, Tinian

Rota:

■ Residence of Mr. Thomas A. Manglona
Miling Kata An, Rota ***(PR)***

Kilili grills Interior secretary on FY'17 budget

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) got Northern Mariana Islands-specific with Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell yesterday, as the House Natural Resources Committee held its annual hearing on the U.S. Interior Department budget.

Sablan said he was particularly concerned that the budget submitted to Congress by Interior's Office of Insular Affairs did not include any funding expressly for the Close Up program.

"The Close Up program brings island students to Washington each year to learn how their government works," Sablan said. "It is a valuable use of federal funds. In fact, several of my colleagues in the Northern Marianas congressional office got interested in government through Close Up."

In 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 the Office of Insular Affairs budget identified Close Up as a program that is "necessary on an ongoing basis for the insular areas" and that should be funded "because there was no other source of funds in the Federal budget.

Close Up had a specific line item of $1.1 million in Interior's FY16 proposal. But for FY17 Interior dropped any reference to Close Up.

"I'm not sure what to make of that," Sablan told Jewell. "But it is troubling." Jewell said she believed there was $1 million in the budget for the Close Up program, but that she would have to check to get more specifics.

The secretary also promised to report back to Sablan, when asked for a status report on the Rota National Park study. Sablan was able to include authorization for the study in the FY16 omnibus appropriation and Park Service personnel have already met with Rota officials and begun work on the three-year project.

"This is something I worked to achieve since my very first year in Congress," the Congressman explained to Jewell.

"So, I would just like to hear from you that you have the money you need in your FY17 proposal to keep the Rota Park study moving forward and on schedule."

Another park issue the congressman raised was getting the American Memorial Park back in service. The congressman said he had visited twice himself and that he has been hearing from constituents that the Park Service has been slow to clean up debris, repair damage, and get the park fully open to the public.

"Is it a money issue? Is it because the park is supervised from Guam and that means an extra layer of decision-making? What can we do to speed things up?" Sablan asked.

"We will follow up with the Park Service directly," Jewell replied. "We are constrained for resources, but I was not aware of that until you just brought it up."

Packing a fourth question into the five minutes given to each committee member during almost three hours of hearing, Sablan then turned to the work of the Interagency Group on Insular Areas, which Jewell co-chairs.

"I think the concept of a White House-led response to the needs of the insular areas is great," Sablan told the Secretary.

"But I am concerned about results. I have never seen a report on what the outcome of these IGIA meetings has been.

"Are the problems the island governors raise being addressed? Are the governors satisfied with the results? Is the IGIA process working? I don't know.

"So, I would like to ask if your office could provide me with a report on the problems the Governors have raised at IGIA over the last seven years and what the outcomes have been. Have we gotten results?"

"I'll be happy to ask Insular Affairs to do that," Jewell said.

The last report by the Interagency Group, available on its website, is from 2008.

As vice ranking member of the committee, Sablan was also one of the four members allowed by committee rules to make an opening statement.

Sablan used the opportunity to call for action on approval of the 15-year extension of the Compact of Free Association between the U.S. and the Republic of Palau. The original Compact was negotiated by the administration of President Ronald Reagan.

Sablan has introduced legislation to approve the Compact extension; and the Interior Department has included funding in its FY17 budget proposal.

"Today, with the expansion of China in the Pacific, Reagan's foresight in assuring that Palau would be an ally of the United States is more clear than ever," Sablan told the Committee.

"China certainly understands how important islands can be. Right now China is actually creating islands, where none existed before."

Sablan asked Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) for a hearing on the Palau bill, H.R. 4531.

"China is not sitting back on its heels doing nothing," Sablan said. "Neither should we." ***(Office of the CNMI Delegate)***

Koblerville Youth Center undergoes makeover

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Left shows the Koblerville Youth Learning Center before Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s Corporate Social Responsibility Team spruced up the building, while right photo shows the building after the much-needed makeover.

The Koblerville Youth Learning Center has received much needed support for grounds beautification, according to Youth Affairs Office special assistant Shelane Borja.

"She said that the Corporate Social Responsibility Team of Best Sunshine International, Ltd., led by Rita Chong has provided repainting services to the Koblerville Youth Learning Center and Koblerville basketball court, removed graffiti in the area, as well as bush cutting and the clearing of debris.

"The team spent time at the Koblerville Youth Learning Center last week as part of their island-wide beautification project. I really want to thank them for spending time in this community," she said.

She said the CSR team is currently working on another village pride project in Susupe in order "to bring peace and togetherness". Volunteer artist Luis Ogo and Roman Kaipat will complete the remaining beautification efforts.

Borja expressed that the youth center is vital to the enhancement of the community in that it provides a safe and clean area for the youth and their families to enjoy.

She shared that because not all youth centers can fully operate due to funding, the KYLC truly appreciates the help in maintaining the facilities.

Borja, who also works closely with the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts or CARE, recognized the hard work of volunteers from United 4 Saipan, the CSR team, as well as the government agencies, the Mayor's Office, and the many volunteers in their continued village debris removal campaigns. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 3 , 2000

PCB contamination House prods Teno to create task force

Saying the health of the villagers in Tanapag is at stake, the House of Representatives yesterday set the motion to persuade Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to create a task force that will take care of the issues surrounding the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination in the area. Members of the 18-member chamber voted unanimously to adopt a joint resolution asking the governor to act on the problems stemming from the failure by both federal and local authorities to clean up the village of the highly-toxic chemicals. Health and environmental problems in Tanapag, a northern coastal village in Saipan, began when an unknown quantity of ceramic capacitors containing PCB oil were shipped to the island in the 1960s by the Department of Defense.

DPH embarks on telemedicine

The Department of Public Health has adopted the concept of telemedicine in a move to improve the delivery of health care system as well as provide continuous training to medical staff in the CNMI. Telemedicine is a technology innovation in which two distance health facilities communicate using state-of-the-art audio and visual equipment. Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said the Commonwealth Health Center has now links with Tripler Army Medical Center using the telemedicine technology. Equipment such as digital camera, video camera and scanner have been installed at the office of Joe Santos, head of the medical referral program. With limited funds, the department hopes to save a lot of money using this technology since a patient's case is thoroughly examined by doctors from both hospitals first before they are sent off-island for treatment.

March 3, 2005

Experts confirms betel nut disease

A plant pathologist from the University of Guam confirmed yesterday that the fungi that has killed hundreds of betel nut trees on Saipan is similar to the one that attacked Guam last year. Dr. George Wall also said the infection's spread to other areas would likely occur due to the imminent arrival of the rainy months. High winds could transfer the spores of the fungi to other uninfected trees. Agriculture consultant Isidoro T. Cabrera of the Northern Marianas College–Cooperative Research, Extension & Education Service earlier said that he has already applied with the Division of Environmental Quality for a permit to use the fungicide Kocide 4.5LF to control the spread of the disease. He recommended the use of two other chemicals—Foshpite and Agri FOS—which he said would be injected into the trees.

MPLA chair scores OPA over 'unavailable' report

Marianas Public Lands Authority chair Ana Demapan-Castro has decried the Office of the Public Auditor's alleged refusal to provide her a copy of an OPA report stating that she may have violated the law in terminating former MPLA commissioner Henry Hofschneider. In a March 2 letter to public auditor Michael S. Sablan, Demapan-Castro said she was disappointed that the media and the public were informed of OPA's findings ahead of her. Even her efforts to obtain a copy of the OPA report, she said, were met with indifference.

She related that she telephoned the OPA office on March 2 to request a copy of the report. But Nancy Gottfried—the OPA employee who prepared the report—refused, telling Demapan-Castro that she felt "uncomfortable" providing her the report. She asked Sablan to consider the letter as a request for OPA to present her a copy of the report. Hofschneider is currently contesting his termination at the U.S. District Court.

March 3, 2006

Tinian Drydock facility proposed

TINIAN—Tinian Shipping & Transportation is proposing to build its own drydock facility here to ensure immediate repair of vessels. It cited that, due to a lack of such a facility, one of its only two ferries—Saipan Express and Tinian Express, which ply the route between Tinian and Saipan—could not be repaired since it ran aground in October 2005. The company proposes to initially invest $1 million to build the facility, which would be located at the tip of Tinian Pier, previously the tuna factory.

Governor avows policy on nondiscriminatory hirings

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has reaffirmed the CNMI government's policy on equal employment opportunity and directed all government agencies to establish and implement individual EEO rules. Fitial said that the government would not tolerate discrimination in the hiring process or in the treatment of its employees. He added that the government would vigorously enforce a policy of non-tolerance for sexual harassment in the workplace and among the government workforce. The governor, who also serves as the equal employment opportunity officer of the CNMI, appointed the Personnel director as the deputy EEO officer.

BSI CSR team continues cleanup efforts in Tanapag

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Overgrown vines and grass dwarf the Tanapag ponding basin and its surrounding field.

Best Sunshine International Ltd.'s Corporate Social Responsibility team cleared and cleaned the Tanapag ponding basin's surrounding field.

Best Sunshine International Ltd.'s Corporate Social Responsibility Department continues to focus on helping engage in meaningful community experiences and at the same time expanding ways to deepen its collaboration and engagement.

Last month, the CSR team led by director Geri Dela Cruz, completed the cleaning of Tanapag ponding basin and the Tanapag Middle School field. ***(PR)***

Tanapag field before the cleanup.

Tanapag field after the cleanup of BSI's CSR team.

UOG offers summer travel course to Southeast Asia

The University of Guam will be offering a summer travel course to Southeast Asia this summer from July 4 to 19. Participants will travel to Cambodia, Myanmar, and Thailand. Participants may join the course for academic credit or as a noncredit community participant.

The trip will be led by UOG professor Dr. Kim Skoog, who areas of expertise include Asian Culture, Philosophy and Religion. Travelers will tour palaces and monasteries, visit remote tribal villages, explore natural wonders along rivers and lakes, ride elephants through the jungle, and more for two full weeks of adventure.

Skoog will host an informational meeting this Thursday, March 3, at 3:30pm in the Humanities and Social Sciences Conference Room.

For more information, call Skoog at 735-2800/2811 or email socrates@guam.net. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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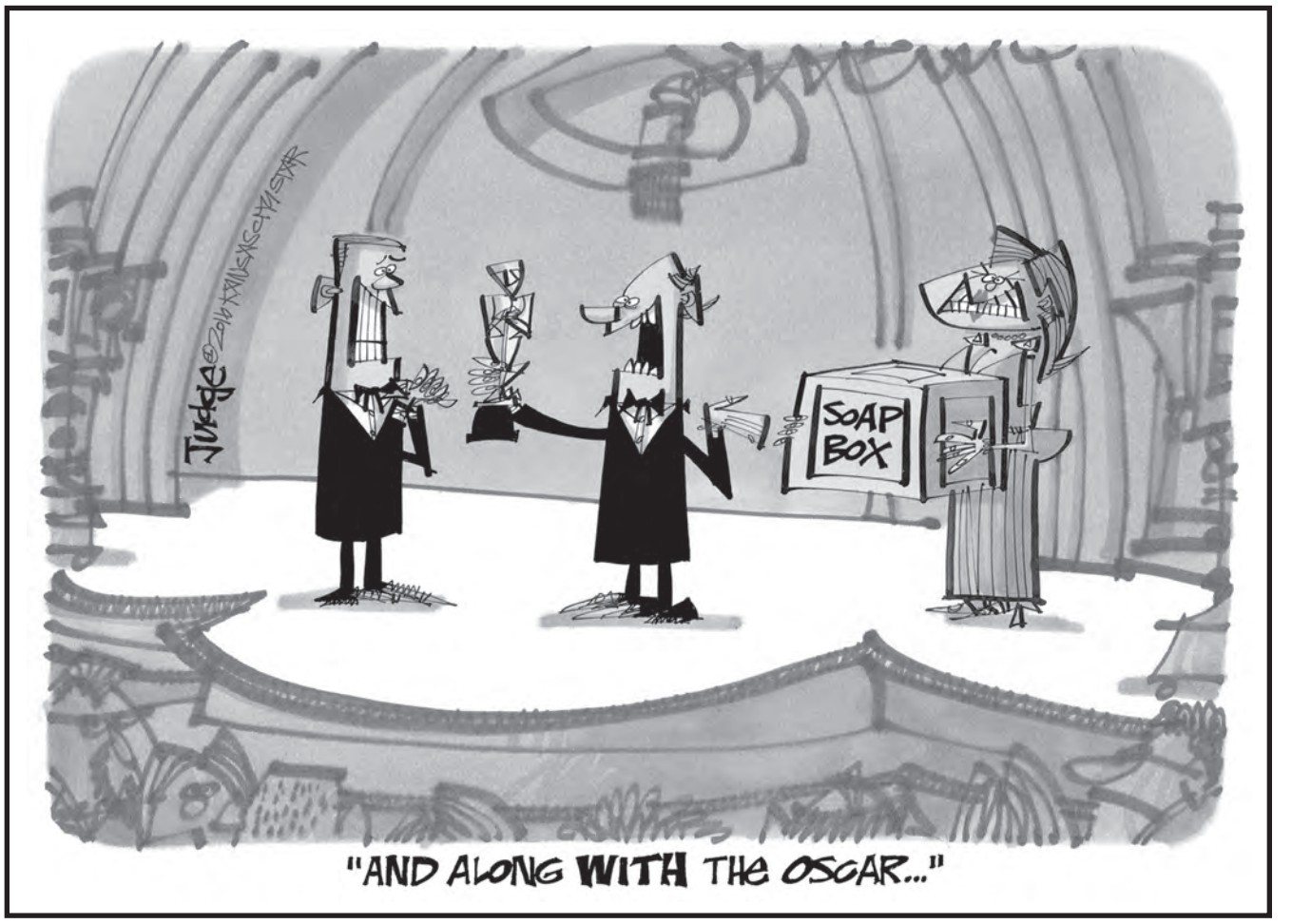

EDITORIAL

As vile Trump rises, GOP faithful must ask, what would Lincoln do?

"Can you believe it?"

Everywhere we go in town, that's the conversation starter. Eyebrows arch. Tempers rise. A sense of exasperation takes over.

The subject, of course, is the Donald Trump phenomenon. And the short answer is, "Unfortunately, it's all too believable."

The conversations were guaranteed to accelerate on Tuesday as Republican voters went to polls and caucuses in 11 states and appeared certain to propel Trump's candidacy even further in what has become a most extraordinary political season.

Whether he will march all the way to Cleveland and take the crown at the Republican National Convention has not yet totally been settled. But who's really going to stop him? Marco Rubio? Ted Cruz? John Kasich? Get real. If Trump conquers Rubio's Florida and Kasich's Ohio in the contests on March 15 — as polls suggest is a likely scenario — the GOP race really will be over.

But even before then Trump's candidacy is proving to be volcanic on the American landscape. The Republican Party surely will never be the same. But the GOP has gotten what it has sown. Much as Republicans would like to, they can't blame everything on President Barack Obama. Party leaders and die-hard conservatives are now contorting themselves with the crisis they themselves must own. Perhaps they can find wisdom if not solace in wondering about their forebears: What would Abraham Lincoln do? What would Ronald Reagan do?

Donald Trump. He's vile. He's vicious. He represents the ugliest of ugly Americanism. The party of Reagan and Lincoln and House Speaker Paul Ryan surely is ashamed. And yet he is the choice of 49 percent of Republicans, according to a recent poll, to be their next president. And barring a debacle on Tuesday, that number is certain to grow.

Yes, people are angry. And yes, they are frustrated with political gridlock and the status quo of power elites in Washington.

Trump's wide range of supporters don't give one hoot about what we think, or what the GOP establishment thinks, or least of all Hillary Clinton. Trump's backers just have become certain that he's the man to clean it all up. He's the embodiment of throw-the-bums-out. His nastiest qualities, his appeal to the worst of American nativist impulses — hello, David Duke — none of it seems to matter to the fawning crowds at his rallies or the closet Trumpsters in American boardrooms or elsewhere in supposedly polite society.

Exit polls continue to confirm that voters are going his way because Trump "tells it like it is." It makes no difference what "it" is, or whether Trump has ever explained "it" in any coher-

See TRUMP on Page 11

Conspiracy theories

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

It did not take long before the demise of Justice Antonin Scalia hit the conspiracy tableau. It appeared that a casual opinion of a law enforcement officer claiming that the Justice had a pillow on his face when he was found dead immediately spun the conspiracy tongues wagging. It was loud and wide. The word "murder" was even invoked.

It really did not come as a surprise. The American media tends to report what one did not do, or should have done, rather than what actually transpired. They are not mean-spirited; they are just following what has been America's cautionary habit against the sly machinations of the royalty since the thirteen colonies decided to say "NEIN" to the British throne.

While living in the D.C. area in the late '90s with a spouse who was an officer of USAID, I joined her at a social function where an officer mused that for every federal agency mandated to "do" something, another nine were created to oversight function. She exaggerated but it is true that a "can do" attitude, with all its Eisenhower optimism and JFK idealism, grates against the Potomac's slam-dunk big "WHAT IF."

Take Obama's initial optimism when he came into office. It did not take long for folks off and on his party suggest what he cannot do. Of late, media reported that The Donald "viciously attacked Obama for not attending Scalia's funeral" in response to the WH announcement that Obama skip the funeral at the Cathedral and did a private viewing instead. The rational was the security measures needed at such a high profile event; distracts the focus away from the deceased. The media painted a petty Donald and an unwise Obama.

After perusing Episcopalian Bishop Spong's reflections on the New Reformation, the Bishop appears more preoccupied with what Christianity is NOT about than what it does. In contrast, the Muslim Reform Movement reiterated Islam's support of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted in 1948. They rejected interpretations of Islam that focused on violence, social injustice, and extremist politics. Principles of transforming communities were what they were to pursue: peace, human rights and secular governance.

The United States has yet to learn how to shake off its distrust of organized efforts and heed the Gipper's advise: Trust but verify, most helpful in Reagan's relationship to the USSR's Gorbachev that eventually dismantled the Cold War symbol of the Berlin wall.

I listened to my Chinese stepson elucidate why he does not relate at the start to other people with trust. His China orientation makes him begin with distrust until proven trustworthy and that will be good enough for him in Uncle Sam's land as well. He fits well in distrustful America!

The economic collapse of '29 abetted this starting notion of distrust but for the American soul, it goes further in time for many of its settlers from Europe escaped from the tyranny of royal persecution. It engendered an escapist tendency of the mind that is as taken-for-granted today as the suburban Mall.

And conspiracy theories. A lot of energy is wasted on speculating what "the other" is planning to do me harm, or, divest me of my assets! In U.S. foreign policy, it never asks why we are in Korea, lording it over half of a previous Japanese colony while the other half jitters on the other side of Ponmunjum, further making the Mao uniforms across the Yalu River into Manchuria nervous. When Chiang claimed South China Sea as part of China, we did not say anything but when two years later, Mao said the same thing, we demurred and are still protesting. We use the rationale of "containment of hostile military expansionism" of China to justify our "strategic military location" in the Northern Marianas Islands, but evidently clear to protect oil interests.

OK. We will be indulgent and speculate on the "what if."

Obama wants to spend the rest of his remaining years after the WH with the black robes of the Supreme Court. This was idle speculation until conservative Antonin Scalia called ten-four. Immediately, GOP anxiety promised to block any Obama appointment on a presidential election year. Majority Senate leader KY's O'Connell and Texas Senator Ted Cruz promised to filibuster if the measure came to the Senate floor. OK, we got that.

Obama can do two things. He can resign from office and let Biden serve his remaining term; then appoint BHO to the Supreme Court. Legal but sly.

Or, he can spend the rest of his term making sure Hillary Clinton gets all the breaks she needs to be elected as the first female President of the Union (about time, the female, I mean), and let her appoint him after she gets sworn in.

Moderate Republican Brain Sandoval, governor of Nevada, a clearly bipartisan WH selection, took himself out of consideration. The GOP painted their vote into a corner. The second option is on. The GOP won't need to protest an Obama appointment, and Obama is robed to the Supreme Court. That should make everyone happy, right?

Batkon aire sin pilotu

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Dumadandan-yu` kanta siha ni hagas in` dadandan antes yan i Tropicsette. Sumasaunau "adios korason", lahe hanau, hatdin paraisu, flores Marianas, ti gi un palasyon riku, yan otru siha sunidu.

Dispues mattu-yu` gi un` kanta `nai ilegña, "I batkon aire sin pilotu". Kase kanta pot mayute` i paire ya tinetpe puminite.

I mismu sunidu lokue` kabales ha deskribi kara` kahon iya Marianas. Lumalailai sin pilotu ya ni timon taya` para u maesgaihon mona.

Hu dandan lokue` "nobia", un` napinite na kanta sa` i hagas nobiu kumantaye i nobia gi pueñgen komplimentu. Bonitu na kanta pot mensahe para i nobia gi mañainaña antes de uma-echa bendision umakamu` gi sigiente dia.

Lau sige ha` hoñga i ekun "batkon aire sin pilotu" gi fondun talañga-hu. Ni haf` na lugan guafe umahatsaye kara` iya Marianas siempre u poduñg ginen minakatña mismu. Megai para u fan mamadese ginen este na diskuidu.

Mangai sustansia i kantan antes siha gi todu tres liñguahe. Agradesiyon ma-ekuñgog i mensahe ni kinakatsu kabales na sentimentu. Guaha siha man-matranslada ni umafagcha` kulan tunadan isla.

Lamegai lokue` man-lache na finu` Chamorro. Bai rekomenda na yangin mañge` hau kanta, na`e i tumuñgu` finu` Chamorro ya una` dinanche palabramu.

Kanta, oppan gi maseha manu na komunidan isla gi enteru iya Pasifiku. Estague` un` chalan `nai a`anog sentimentun tautau isla entre pininite yan man-namagof siha na okasion.

Lau mampos na` abarambau hinassu i "batkon aire sin pilotu!" De dios!

**Te`ug na asuntu:** I baban ekonomia hagas ha chalapongue` gi linala` familia siha guine. Mas tiempu mas didog i pinadese gi halom tautau-ta. Kuestion: Haf` i mansabiun hegsu` I Deni` mapetsisige para uma-adelanta i ekonomia ni humohogse kinalamten familia pa`gu?

Nañga sa` man-hanau mañgarera para DC yan Tobi de hemunos kau kara` i kahan iya Marianas. Dios mihu na mañan diskuidu!

Ilegña un` attikulu na kahulu` adelantun ekonomia tres pot sientu. Ti ma-inklusu kuantu pinidoñgña i lamayot patte gi hagas abarambau na kinalamten guine.

Poresu na hu chochoneg fehman para umana` guaha planu `nai todu petinente patte guine siña mañaunau gi areglun ennau na planu. U fan inayuda ni professionat na tautague` ni tumuñgu` plumaneha mauleg siha na adelantu para i tanu`.

Sin planu pues sali hit de man-esuette ginen i aire. Areglu guaha gi maseha haf` na planu mapetsige gi maseha manu na tanu`. Tat presisu na para ta tatiye pañgpañg napu `an afnu`. Presisu na ta planeha futtunan famaguon-ta.

**Mantai Gima`:** Guaha un` estorian gaseta ha pasalista kuantu na natibu giya Guam mantai gima` familia. Mas ke kiñientus numeron este na grupu. Gi halom este 132 ginen sankatan na Marianas. Nachatsaga na estau gi katkuet manera.

I dichu kuestion: Haf` tinateña este chinatsaga? Kau pot mantai che`chu` i los probes yan kau guaha ahensia ni siña man-ayuda sumuda`e offisiu? Mauleg `an guaha ayudun federat entalu` temporariu na fanliheñg yan food stamps. Lau temporariu este na katsu. Debi u guaha animu gi inaligau offisiu `nai guaha kampun ineyag yan edukasion.

Mampos hit mañgontentu gi presisu siha na disision yan disposision ineyag yan edukasion na hita mismu tumailayiyen maisa futtuna-ta. Pot fabot gigon guaha kampu ma-empleha hatme ya un` tutuhon muna guahayen maisa hau. Estague` dinisehan mañaina-ta i sensian animu diariu kumu patte petmanente gi kuttura yan tradision natibu!

Tiempun Eskases: `Nai ha fagcha`e hit semanan brok mas guaha inadahe gi gastun monedan familia. Mas este na inadahe in` pilan na biahe sa` mas didog na sapet para mona.

Puru dilinkuente pumalolopu` familia siha pot taya` adelantu gi sueddon natibu pot bente años na tiempu. Gi hilu` este manbulachu hinassun niha i kabisiyun hegsu` I Deni` haf` finenina para uma-akude. Mientras masososda` haf` mauleg sige ha` mas mafondu linala` i publiku.

I sentimentun diniskontentu mas te`ug yan a`gañg publikamente. Siempre ta aregla este na diskuidu pa`gu na Nobiembre.

Lastro-mu: Guaha fumaisen-yu` haf` sustansian estoria-hu pot deñgdeñg ni hu lagnos gi alacha. I morat: haf` mauleg pinega-mu lastru para i manatatte dispues de malofan hau gi hatdin lina`la`?

■■■

Unu na lastron mañaina-hu chettun giya guahu: minesñgun gi halom sisonyan yan rimulinun pinepble. `In aksepta i man-taya` mame lau in` espiha koyenturan linala` entalu` gualu`, peskan tanu yan tasi.

Puti malag i misan gayu yan matiteg franela sa` ayu ha` guinaha-hu. Lau ha tampe-yu` i Saina ni sutanan tanores `nos kuantos biahi-hu para i atat mañetbe. Dispues, adumididi` `nai `in seda` ginefsagan mame. Bali mesñgun!

■■■

I otru adelantun linala` espirituat. Ala kuenta añklan mame deste tutuhon estake man-echu ham tautau yan mañelu-hu. Ni unu humatme offisiun kriminat. Todu man-felis gi kareran niha. Agradesimientu para i mañainan mame.

■■■

Sessu lokue` umekuñgog-yu` grasiosu na konbetsasion mañaina-hu. Ayu `nai umeyag-yu` usun humidde yan su`anu na palabran Chamorro. Pot ihemplo: Ilegta na "mañagu" i palao`an. Dinanche! Lau i mas propiu na palabra "man-diskatga". Mañagu mauleg na usu gi ga`ga`.

■■■

`An mattu hau man-bisita, maplanta i kanastran mama`. Un` ami hau pugua, pupulu, afog yan amaska. `Nai esta makatkula na nina` batbaru hau ni bulachun mama` `nai mafaisen hau haf` sessu finato-mu. Finu na konbetsasion yan usun palabra estake man-adiñgu.

■■■

Huli`e na i usun finu` Chamorro su`anu siha na palabras. Kumeke ilefg-hu ti direktamente mana`yan hau haf` na intension. Pot ihemplo: `An para un` fañgopbla manana`lun inayau salape` siña un` usa chinatsagan patgon-mu man-apase atkilon guma` kumu estudiante.

I man-dididi debi u hoka ensegidas pineduñg fino`mu pot dibiña. Antes de un` hanau nina`e hau ni salape ya man-gagau dispensu pot atrasau hanana`lu. Tai guine na modun konbetsasion mina` motmut inafamauleg gi tautau-ta.

■■■

Hu fagcha`e primu-hu gi fina` maneska. Ha soyu-yu` chesan "hurry up" tat kumu flitadan babue ni mimantika yan tininun tiyan babue. Guiya ayu na chesa i siempre mofona hau ke ambulans guatu gi hospitat. Dios mihu!

TRUMP

From Page 10

ent or achievable detail.

It makes no difference that he would be the one with his finger on the proverbial red button. And it hardly matters that no one knows how or whether he could possibly govern. All that matters is that Trump is Trump.

Heaven help us.

As voter turnout continues to flood for Trump in the GOP contests, the challenge for the Democratic Party is to ensure a sense of enthusiasm for its likely candidate, Clinton, and to hope that her genuine ability to appear presidential, in contrast to Trump, will make a real difference.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Extremely concerned, dissapointed, and perplexed

Dear chairperson Roberto,

On March 1, 2016, the *Saipan Tribune* reported that the CUC board has delayed action on the IRP (integrated Resource Plan) in connection with Power Supple Resource proposal RFP15-002 which was issued over a year ago in January 2015.

RS Guerrero & Associates is the local agent for HSU Consortium, which participated in the RFP. We have worked hard and complied with the requirements of the CUC and waited patiently for over one year in anticipation of action by the CUC board. We believe that our proposal is responsive, and took into account of the existing fuel contract and delivery pipeline, power distribution and permitting constraints faced by the CUC in connection with the power generation needs of the Island of Saipan.

It is therefore extremely disappointing that we read in the Saipan Tribune, that CUC director David Sablan was reported to have pushed for the motion to approve Case No. 12 from one specific bidder, without first having the CUC board understand and consider the efforts of all other bidders who have diligently participated in this time consuming and expensive proposal process.

The bidders in this RFP have waited patiently in connection with the procurement process, which has taken over one year from the RFP closing to last week's presentation by Leidos Engineering to the CUC. It is not clear whether Leidos Engineering has determined that Case 12 alone is appropriate for consideration to be decided amongst all the offers. Either scenarios do not present the CUC in good light for the firms that have worked hard to offer what each believe was a winnable and appropriate technical solution for CUC.

We are extremely concerned that the CUC board is probably not aware that the CUC does not have the transmission infrastructure to be able to accept 10MW of solar photovoltaic power. The only landmass on Saipan that can accommodate such a scale of solar development is likely in Marpi, which is served by feeder 7, which at most can only accept 3MW of power. If a solar photovoltaic of such magnitude is undertaken, the CUC will have to build up miles of transmission lines to receive such power.

We doubt that the foregoing associated development costs of solar photovoltaic have been taken into account. Also it has been evidenced in Guam that the costs of solar photovoltaic are generally underestimated and that costs related to weather-related issues such as storms are almost never taken into account, which are huge risks for any utility considering large-scale solar farms in the Marianas. May we ask if Leidos Engineering provided any analysis of such risk to the CUC Board.

Also, the 10MW proposal per case 12 will have cost an impact on the tariff and rates to the Consumers. Solar Photovoltaic is only economically possible if there are subsidies available to support this development. Whilst it is noted that renewable energy is important, one must be cognizant that implementing solar energy will impact local consumers significantly because of the impact on power rates required for costs recovery. May we ask if the CUC Board was made aware of the impact of the project on existing cost of generation and rates? There has been no report of such modeling by the CUC rates consultant, the Economist.com so I assume none has been done.Such rate impact modeling is critical if the CUC desires to pursue Solar photovoltaic so that the CUC will not fall into the same financial situation faced by the Guam Power Authority.

Also, we are perplexed that the CUC Board was asked to act on the IRP on the same day, after one hour of presentation of a year's work by Leidos Engineering. It is clear that the CUC Board was not given sufficient time to allow the CUC Board to be aware of the proposals by other contractors, notably by HSU consortium which provided a phased and expandable power generation plant that ties in to the existing fuel pipeline and also the tie in to existing CUC distribution assets. We doubt if Leidos Engineering has provided the CUC Board adequate information of the different proposals.

The demand for power on Saipan will grow tremendously from the numerous new investments and commercial activities that have been spurned by the legalization of gaming. CUC's current aging power generation assets will not be able to cater for the drastic increase in power demand unless action to place new power generation capacity is undertaken by the CUC. At the Same time, the placement of such new capacity requires the CUC to understand which contractor plans would match the power demand adequately and at affordable costs. The CUC board may not be aware of such planning by contractors within the one hour presentation made by Leidos Engineering. For example, was there any contractor who has proposed that their plant is sited at Lower Base to ensure that fuel delivery costs are at a minimum and that the new power can be transmitted using the existing distribution lines?

CUC should invite all firms that have participated, to provide a presentation of their proposal so that the CUC is aware of all the alternatives that the CUC has on hand before pursuing an award. We believe such action is fair and provides a level playing field for the participants of the RFP, and ensures that the CUC Board will be able to make a decision that would not be subject of procurement protests.

We agree that the CUC Board made the right decision by tabling the IRP until such time the Board Members become aware of the costs and benefits of all proposals submitted to CUC. However it is also crucial for the CUC Board to promptly initiate the process by inviting all participants to make a presentation of their proposals to the CUC board.

We hope that the CUC Board will address this request for presentation by all bidders which only serves to give the CUC a better understanding of all the alternatives proposed and be able to select the one that matches the CUC's needs.

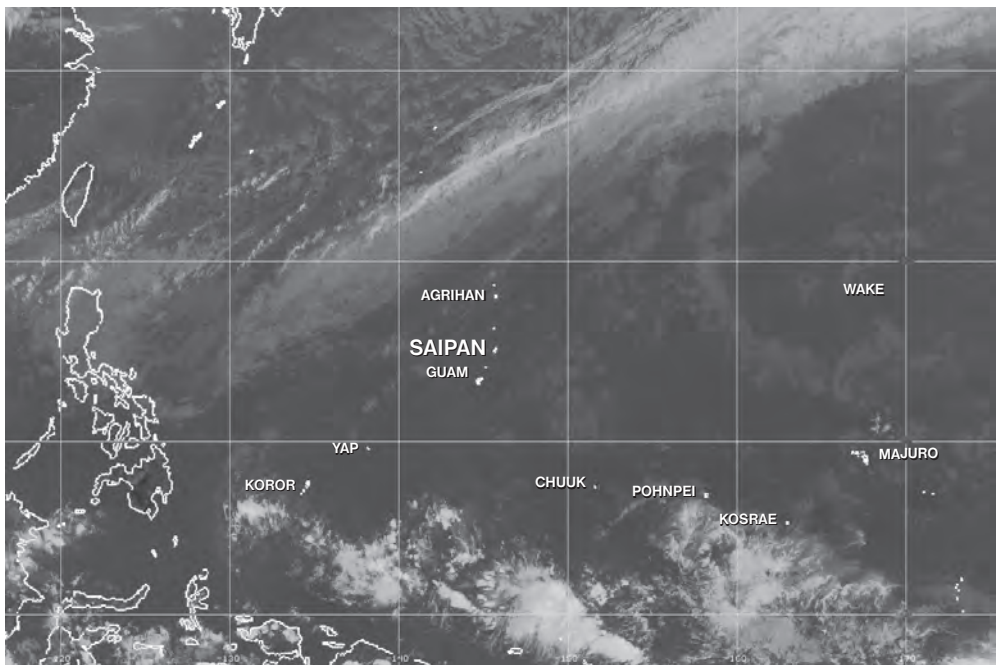
Ramon S. Guerrero
RS Guerrero & Associates

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.
▲87º ▼76º	▲87º ▼76º	▲86º ▼75º	▲86º ▼75º	▲86º ▼75º

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 12:49 PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line stretches southwestward from 25N154E through 130E at 13N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are along and up to 350 miles northwest of this boundary. A surface trough curves southeastward from 9N130E to EQ137E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen just south of Koror within 150 miles of a line from 7N130E to EQ145E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Kosrae, south of a line from EQ157E to 5N162E to EQ173E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼73
Palau	Sunny	▲88	▼75
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼72
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼72
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼73

Around the Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼56
Beijing	Sunny	▲62	▼26
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲70	▼50
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲74	▼57
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲45	▼31
Los Angeles	Haze	▲75	▼48
Manila	Sunny	▲86	▼71
Melbourne	Sunny	▲79	▼59
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼57
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲42	▼16
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼39
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲48	▼35
Pusan	Sunny	▲61	▼38
Rome	Sunny	▲60	▼45
Salem	Light Showers	▲57	▼44
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲63	▼53
Seoul	Sunny	▲55	▼41
Tokyo	Sunny	▲58	▼30
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲43	▼19

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- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:31 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:22 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
1:46 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
9:27 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:33 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:32 AM	6:26 PM
Sunday	6:31 AM	6:26 PM
Monday	6:30 AM	6:26 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:13 AM	12:55 PM
Friday	2:04 AM	1:47 PM
Saturday	2:56 AM	2:42 PM
Sunday	3:48 AM	3:39 PM
Monday	4:40 AM	4:38 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2928/193	6:05pm	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	9:00am+1	3, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2927	10:00am	5:35pm	3 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/2925	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2927	10:20pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2929	10:20pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Marianas High School's Cultural Day

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

The Marianas High School cheering squad waits for the music to play to begin their dance routine in last Friday's Cultural Day at the MHS grounds.

The Filipino Club performs the traditional Philippine dance tinikling, which uses bamboo poles.

Students from Seisa High School perform a traditional Japanese dance.

Students check out the different booths spread out at the MHS grounds.

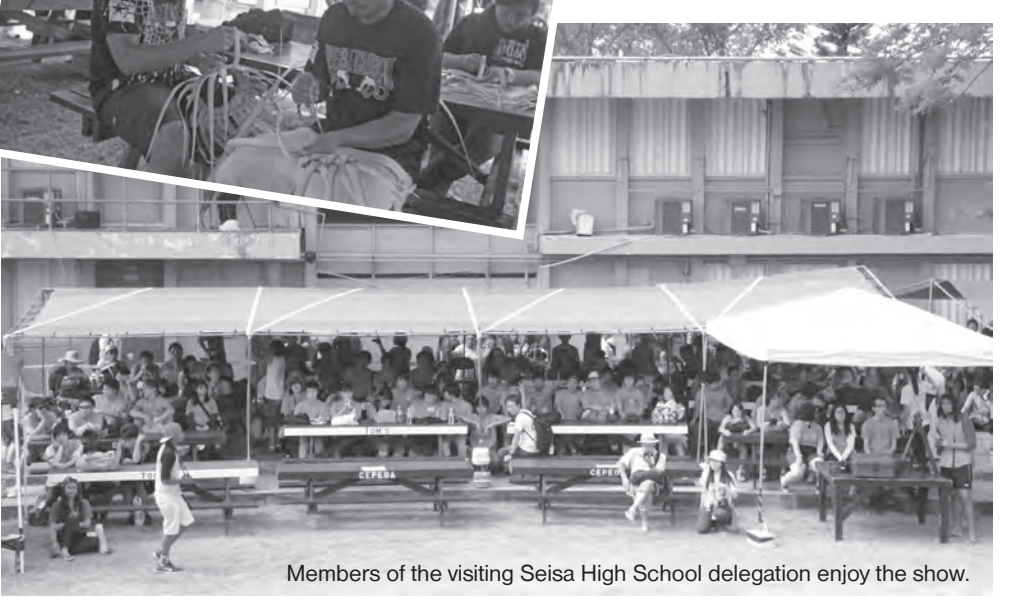
Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), left, and Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), second left, joined in the festivities along with MHS principal Cherlyn Cabrera and 2015 Miss Marianas Jian Joyner.

Members of the MHS Chamorro Cultural Club had a song and dance number.

Visiting Seisa High School students were among the performers.

Members from the Refaluwasch community weave traditional headdresses in one of the more than 30 booths.

Sophomores serenaded the crowd with reggae-inspired songs accompanied by a ukulele.



Members of the visiting Seisa High School delegation enjoy the show.

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Kenmore 3.3cu.ft. Washer $569.95

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Conair Extreme Fabric Handheld Steamer with Dual Heat $55.95

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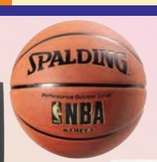
Kenmore Upright Bagless Vacuum $79.95

Essential Home Ironing Board $29.95

Melannco 6 Openin Collage Frame $14.95



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Business

FBI, Apple clash before Congress as encryption fight simmers

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. government calls it a "vicious guard dog" that hurts national security. Apple says it's critical to protecting consumer privacy against increasingly sophisticated hackers.

As the debate over built-in iPhone encryption has deadlocked in the courts, law enforcement and the world's second-largest cellphone maker agreed on one point Tuesday: It's now up to Congress to set boundaries in a long-simmering fight over who can legally access your digital life.

"We're asking Apple to take the vicious guard dog away and let us pick the lock," FBI Director James Comey told a House judiciary panel Tuesday, referring to a locked iPhone tied to the deadly December shooting in San Bernardino, California.

AP

Civil rights activist Jesse Jackson, right, speaks to reporters after attending the Apple annual shareholder meeting Friday, Feb. 26, 2016, at Apple headquarters in Cupertino, Calif.

"The FBI is asking Apple to weaken the security of our products," Apple general counsel Bruce Sewell countered later that afternoon.

Tuesday's hearing shifted attention from the courts—where judges in the last month have issued significant but conflicting opinions—to Congress, where both sides say the broader policy debate belongs.

It also provided an extraordinary public forum for the Obama administration and Apple Inc. to stake out competing positions that could have sweeping ramifications. Apple's recent opposition to bypassing security features for the government has pushed that dispute from tech circles into the mainstream.

The strong positions articulated Tuesday make clear the deep divide between Silicon Valley and the government, even as the Obama administration advocates open dialogue and resolution.

"Is it the right thing to make our society overall less safe in order to solve crime?" Sewell asked. "That's the issue that we're wrestling with."

On Monday, a federal judge in Brooklyn said the Obama administration couldn't force Apple to help it gain access to the phone in a drug case. U.S. Magistrate Judge James Orenstein said Justice Department attorneys were relying on the centuries-old All Writs Act to "to produce impermissibly absurd results."

But two weeks ago, a different magistrate judge in California, Sheri Pym, directed the company to help the FBI hack into a locked iPhone used by one of the shooters in the December attack in San Bernardino, which killed 14 people.

With those two conflicting rulings in mind, Congress needs to get involved to address the broader collision between privacy and public safety, Comey said.

The Obama administration last year decided against a legislative fix.

Now, though, "Congress must decide this issue," said Sewell, while also criticizing the U.S. government for simultaneous supporting encryption used by activists and journalists in countries with fewer free-speech rights.

SIDEBAR

Attorney General turns up the heat in public war with Apple

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The nation's top law officer called for dialogue with the tech industry, but also turned up the heat on Apple for refusing to help the FBI unlock an encrypted iPhone used by an extremist mass killer in San Bernardino.

"One risk is making this all about Apple when in reality it's about all of us," U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch told an audience at a major cybersecurity industry conference in San Francisco on Tuesday.

"We have to decide," she added. "Do we let one company, no matter how great a company, no matter now beautiful their devices—do we let one company decide this issue for all of us? Do we let one company say this is how investigations are going to be conducted?"

Lynch spoke as top officials of the FBI and Apple were testifying on the same topic before Congress. Meanwhile a courtroom collision is looming over Apple's challenge to a federal court order that the company says would make all iPhones vulnerable to hacking by government authorities and criminals alike.

During her speech at the annual RSA security conference, Lynch echoed comments earlier in the day by National Security Agency director Mike Rogers, who told attendees that the government wants to work collaboratively with the tech industry to fight extremists and malicious hackers.

But in an on-stage interview that followed her prepared remarks, Lynch reiterated the government's argument that it's only asking Apple for limited assistance, as it has in previous cases where the tech company has helped authorities obtain information from suspect's iPhones.

When asked if she saw any middle ground in the dispute, Lynch told Bloomberg News anchor Emily Chang, "For me, the middle ground is to divulge what the law requires." Lynch went on to compare the government's demand to a routine search warrant that allows police to enter a home and look for evidence of a crime.

Some legal experts dispute that characterization and argue that a U.S. magistrate's order in the San Bernardino case oversteps the government's authority. Apple's argument was echoed Monday by a different U.S. magistrate, who ruled in a New York case that the government had no legal justification for demanding Apple's help with a drug suspect's iPhone.

Automakers post healthy February US sales gains

DETROIT (AP)—Automakers posted big U.S. sales gains last month as consumers—giddy from Super Bowl ads—returned to showrooms after a snowy January.

Sales rose 7 percent over last February to 1.3 million vehicles, according to Autodata Corp. Automakers reported February sales on Tuesday.

Ford's sales rose 20 percent over last February, boosted in part by higher sales to rental car fleets. Honda's sales were up 13 percent and Fiat Chrysler's rose 12 percent. Nissan's sales rose nearly 11 percent and Toyota's were up 4 percent. Hyundai's sales rose 1 percent.

General Motors said its sales fell 1.5 percent, partly due to a 39-percent cut in rental sales. Volkswagen, still stinging from its diesel cheating scandal, saw its U.S. sales drop 13 percent.

Industry analysts had expected February sales to bounce back after a slight decline in January. One factor: Super Bowl ads. On Super Bowl Sunday, which was Feb. 7, Website visits per dealership were four times higher than any other Sunday in all of 2015, according to Michelle Krebs, a senior analyst with Autotrader.com. Credit applications also hit single-day records last month.

Ford Chief Economist Emily Kolinski Morris said improving job and income growth, as well as low gas prices and low interest rates, are outweighing stock market volatility in consumers' minds. Buyers are confident, which is key for auto sales.

Proof of that confidence is everywhere. Sales of the Cadillac Escalade, an SUV that starts at $73,000, were up 22 percent over last February. Sales of Nissan's $30,000 Murano SUV nearly doubled; so did sales of the $89,000 Lexus LX SUV. Ford said it was the best February for van sales since 1979.

Study: $3B will be wasted on unused portion of cancer drugs

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—High prices for cancer medicines aren't the only reason they cost insurers and patients so much.

Waste pads the bill, a study finds, because infused cancer drugs are distributed in the U.S. in vials that usually contain more medicine than most patients need. Most of the time that excess is thrown out, even though it's perfectly good—and worth hundreds or thousands of dollars.

Researchers at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York estimate that wasted cancer medicine in the U.S. this year will add up to nearly $3 billion in excess costs.

Their finding comes as the federal government and much of the health care system try to reduce waste and overall medical spending, which accounts for about one-sixth of U.S. gross domestic product. It's proved difficult to rein in that spending, partly because there are so many competing interests, many of which benefit financially from waste and pricing systems that are murky at best. Meanwhile, cancer medicines are one of the highest-priced, fastest-growing drug categories.

"Hopefully, our regulators will take this as a problem worth addressing," the study's lead author, Dr. Peter B. Bach, said in an interview.

The study, published Tuesday in BMJ (formerly the British Medical Journal), details how drugmakers, hospitals and cancer doctors make money on unused cancer medicine. It focuses on the top 20 drugs for multiple cancer types packaged in single-dose vials and for which the dose depends on the patient's weight, finding that 1 percent to 33 percent of those 20 cancer drugs, on average, remains in vials after each dose is administered.

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EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.381	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7767	Philippine Peso	47.2157
British Pound	0.716	Indian Rupee	67.7022	Singapore Dollar	1.4007
Canadian Dollar	1.3425	Indonesian Rupiah	13271	South Korean Won	1227.6
Chinese Yuan	6.5536	Japanese Yen	113.9264	Swiss Franc	0.9994
Euro	0.921	Malaysian Ringgit	4.1505	Taiwan Dollar	33.0773
		New Zealand Dollar	1.5081	Thailand Baht	35.5876

Nation

It's a Super Tuesday for Clinton and Trump

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton swept through the South on Super Tuesday, claiming victory in their parties' primaries in delegate-rich Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama and Virginia. The front-runners appeared ever more likely to end up in a general election showdown.

On the Republican side, Ted Cruz won his home state of Texas, the night's single biggest prize, as well as neighboring Oklahoma to keep his campaign alive. Democrat Bernie Sanders picked up his home state of Vermont, as well as Oklahoma, Colorado and Minnesota, but failed to broaden his appeal with minority voters who are crucial to the party in presidential elections.

The night belonged to Trump and Clinton, who turned the busiest day of the 2016 primaries into a showcase of their strength with a wide swath of American voters. Each candidate won seven states—most in the South but also in New England—with only the results of Alaska's Democratic caucus still to come.

Signaling her confidence, Clinton set her sights on Trump as she addressed supporters during a victory rally.

"It's clear tonight that the stakes in this election have never been higher and the rhetoric we're hearing on the other side has never been lower," she said.

Trump, too, had his eye on a general election match-up with the former secretary of state, casting her as part of a political establishment that has failed Americans.

"She's been there for so long," Trump said at his swanky Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida. "If she hasn't straightened it out by now, she's not going to straighten it out in the next four years."

Clinton also picked up wins in Texas, Arkansas and Massachusetts, nabbing her first victory in New England, while Trump carried GOP contests in Arkansas, Massachusetts and Vermont.

AP

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks on Super Tuesday primary election night at the White and Gold Ballroom at The Mar-A-Lago Club in Palm Beach, Fla., Tuesday, March 1, 2016.

Trump's dominance has rattled Republican leaders, who fear he's unelectable against Clinton in November. Even as Trump professed to have good relationships with his party's elite, he issued a warning to House Speaker Paul Ryan, who declared earlier in the day that "this party does not prey on people's prejudices." Trump said that if the two don't get along, "he's going to have to pay a big price."

But all efforts to stop Trump have failed, including an aggressive campaign by Florida Sen. Marco Rubio to discredit the billionaire businessman.

For Rubio, Super Tuesday turned into a bitter disappointment. He emerged with his first victory in Minnesota but failed to live up to the wider hopes of the numerous Republican officeholders who have promoted him as the party's best alternative to Trump.

NASA spaceman back from record year flight; gives the thumbs up

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Astronaut Scott Kelly returned to Earth on Wednesday after an unprecedented year in space for NASA, landing in barren Kazakhstan with a Russian cosmonaut who shared his whole space station journey.

Their Soyuz capsule parachuted onto the central Asian steppes and ended a science-rich mission at the International Space Station that began last March and was deemed a steppingstone to Mars.

It was a triumphant homecoming for Kelly and Mikhail Kornienko after 340 days in space. Kelly pumped his fist as he emerged from the capsule, then gave a thumbs-up. He smiled and chatted with his doctors and others as photographers crushed around him in the freezing cold.

"The air feels great out here," NASA spokesman at the scene, Rob Navias, quoted Kelly as saying. "I have no idea why you guys are all bundled up."

Clearly animated and looking well, he said he didn't feel much different than he did after his five-month station mission five years ago.

Kelly and Kornienko had checked out of the space station 3½ hours earlier. In total, they traveled 144 million miles through space, circled the world 5,440 times and experienced 10,880 orbital sunrises and sunsets during the longest single spaceflight by an American.

Kelly posted one last batch of sunrise photos Tuesday on Twitter, before quipping, "I gotta go!" His final tweet from orbit came several hours later: "The journey isn't over. Follow me as I rediscover # Earth!"

Piloting the Soyuz capsule home for Kelly, 52, and Kornienko, 55, was the much fresher and decade younger cosmonaut Sergey Volkov, whose space station stint lasted the typical six months.

The two yearlong spacemen faced a series of medical tests following touchdown. Before committing to even longer Mars missions, NASA wants to know the limits of the human body for a year, minus gravity.

As he relinquished command of the space station Monday, Kelly noted that he and Kornienko "have been up here for a really, really long time" and have been jokingly telling one another, "We did it!" and "We made it!"

"A year now seems longer than I thought it would be," Kelly confided a couple weeks ago.

Not quite a year—340 days to be precise, based on the Russian launch and landing schedule. But still record-smashing for NASA.

Obama, congressional leaders talk Supreme Court vacancy

WASHINGTON (AP)—After an Oval Office sit-down on Tuesday did nothing to move Republican Senate leaders off their hard line against a Supreme Court nomination, Democrats pulled out another weapon in the heated election-year fight: Donald Trump.

In a White House meeting that lasted less than an hour, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, told President Barack Obama that any confirmation process during a presidential campaign would politicize the court. They offered up no potential candidates that would win their backing and no route to filling the seat.

"This vacancy will not be filled this year," McConnell told reporters after the meeting.

Democrats accused Republicans of trying to hold the seat open so that a Republican president can fill it. That president could be Trump, they noted, hoping to needle a GOP establishment uncomfortable with the prospects of Trump presidency.

The meeting—which also included Vice President Joe Biden, Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., the ranking Democrat on the judiciary committee—was the first time the leaders have met since Justice Antonin Scalia's death last month set off a high-stakes clash over the Supreme Court vacancy.

While the men huddled at the White House, voters in 12 states were preparing to weigh in on a presidential contest that has tanked Obama's chances of filling the seat—but also given Democrats a new line of attack. As they emerged from the meeting, they quickly linked the GOP strategy to the Republican front-runner poised to pick up significant momentum Tuesday night.

"All we want them to do is fulfill their Constitutional duty and do their job, and at this stage, they decided not to do that," Reid said. "They think that they can wait and see what President Trump will do, I guess."

Reid's comments were aimed at riling up Democrats, as well as moderate and establishment Republicans who cringe at the thought of the unpredictable celebrity candidate controlling the future of the court. It was an early sign that with formalities— such as awkward White House meetings—dispensed with, the fight over the court was largely a battle for public opinion.

ACROSS THE NATION

Chicago homicides, shootings double over same period in 2015

CHICAGO (AP)—Homicides and shootings have doubled in Chicago so far this year compared with the same period in 2015, and police have seized fewer illegal guns—more possible signals that officers have become less aggressive in the aftermath of a shooting video released last fall. Interim Police Superintendent John Escalante said Tuesday that he was so concerned about officers possibly holding back that he filmed a video for the entire department in which he encouraged them to do their jobs and assured them that a federal probe of the force was not aimed at individuals. "We are aware that there is a concern among the rank and file about not wanting to be the next YouTube video that goes viral," Escalante said in the video before introducing a segment of his own to remind viewers "why we took this job and swore this oath of office." The statistics come almost exactly three months after the city, on the orders of a judge, released the video of Jason Van Dyke, a white officer, firing 16 shots at Laquan McDonald, a black teen killed in 2014. Since that day, Van Dyke has been charged with murder, and Superintendent Garry McCarthy has been fired. The Department of Justice launched a civil rights probe of the police force, and Mayor Rahm Emanuel has sought to regain public trust in the department and his own leadership.

Police arrest suspect who slipped away after chase, standoff

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (AP)—A domestic violence suspect who led police on a televised chase through Orange County with his two sons and their mother in the car, then fled into the fog after an hourslong standoff, was arrested Tuesday night. Thomas Ueno, 35, was taken into custody by Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies who caught up to him on a street in Cerritos, Sgt. Vincent Plair said. Authorities have been hunting for Ueno after he led police on a chase Monday evening with his family in the car. The pursuit began when the woman, who had filed a restraining order against Ueno, sent police a message that she was being held against her will, police told the Orange County Register. Authorities tracked Ueno, the woman and their 1-year-old and 6-year-old sons to Buena Park. The woman's gray Hummer was spotted and chased by Buena Park police after it refused to pull over.

Company to combine 6 dailies into 2 publications in Bay Area

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Six daily newspapers in the San Francisco Bay Area will be consolidated into two, one serving Oakland and the East Bay and the other Silicon Valley, the Bay Area News Group announced Tuesday. In the East Bay, The *Contra Costa Times*, *Oakland Tribune*, *The Daily Review* and *The Argus* will become the new *East Bay Times*. In Silicon Valley, the *San Jose Mercury News*—the group's flagshipv publication—and the *San Mateo County Times* will become the *Mercury News*, said BANG's vice president for audience Dan Smith. Subscribers in Oakland, Hayward and Fremont also will receive new community weeklies, Smith said. Smith said the changes, starting April 5, were prompted by an extensive survey of subscribers.

Asia

PH spots suspected Chinese ships at disputed atoll

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine official said Wednesday that he recently spotted five suspected Chinese coast guard and navy ships at a disputed atoll in the South China Sea and fears Beijing will take control of another area frequented by Filipino, Vietnamese and Malaysian fishermen.

Mayor Eugenio Bito-onon Jr., who heads a Philippine-claimed region in the disputed Spratly Islands, said he saw the Chinese ships at the Jackson Atoll for two straight days last week while flying in a plane over the area.

Bito-onon said Chinese government vessels have not been stationed at the atoll, which the Philippines calls Quirino, in the years he has been passing by the uninhabited ring-shaped reef.

Jackson Atoll lies several kilometers (miles) from the Philippine-claimed Mischief Reef, which China occupied in 1995 and has turned into an island containing what appears to be a runway. It lies midway between the western Philippine province of Palawan and Filipino-occupied Thitu Island in the Spratlys.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said it was trying to verify the reported Chinese presence and a local newspaper report that the Chinese ships recently prevented Filipino fishermen from approaching the area. Chinese Embassy officials were not immediately available for comment.

"I'm alarmed because we frequently pass by that atoll on our way to Pag-asa," Bito-onon told The Associated Press by telephone, referring to the Philippine name for Thitu Island, where he frequently travels to visit a Filipino fishing community guarded by troops. "What will happen now if we sail close with all those Chinese ships?"

Filipino, Vietnamese and Malaysian fishing boats have gone to the vast fishing lagoon Jackson for years, Bito-onon said, adding that Filipino fishermen were looking forward to the start of the octopus-catching season that starts next month.

Aside from China and the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have conflicting territorial claims in the Spratlys.

Malaysian fund rejects report it gave PM over $1 billion

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak rejected a new report Tuesday that a state investment fund likely deposited close to a billion dollars into his personal bank accounts.

Najib has been battling allegations of corruption and mismanagement for months over allegations that hundreds of millions of dollars was channeled into his accounts from indebted investment fund 1MDB, which he formed in 2009.

Malaysia's attorney general cleared Najib of wrongdoing in January, saying $681 million deposited in the prime minister's accounts was a donation from Saudi Arabia's royal family. He said most of the money had been returned.

The Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday that investigations into 1MDB have revealed that a total of more than $1 billion was deposited in Najib's bank accounts—several hundred million dollars more than had reported before—and that investigators believe most came from 1MDB through a complex web of transactions in several countries.

Najib has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing.

A statement issued by Najib's office did not comment on the larger amount reported by the newspaper, saying only that "the funds received were a donation from Saudi Arabia."

It accused the newspaper of "relying solely on anonymous sources that may not even exist" and of "choosing to omit key known facts."

"This is unethical and against accepted journalistic practice," the statement said.

The Wall Street Journal said investigators, whom it did not identify, believe the money was transferred with the help of two former officials in Abu Dhabi, a country with which 1MDB has deep ties.

1MDB is mired in 42 billion ringgit ($10.1 billion) in debt and has been selling its assets to clear its books. Najib became embroiled in the scandal after documents were leaked last year suggesting that money deposited into his accounts may have come from entities linked to 1MDB.

The prime minister's office said Malaysian authorities have traveled to Saudi Arabia to review documents and interview members of the royal family and confirmed that it was the source of the money.

ASIAN BRIEFS

1st self-immolation of year reported in Tibetan region

BEIJING (AP)—A report says a Tibetan Buddhist monk has set himself on fire and died in a protest against Chinese rule, in the first such action of its kind this year. U.S.-government funded Radio Free Asia said Kalsang Wangdu self-immolated on Monday afternoon near the Retsokha monastery in western Sichuan province. RFA said the monk called out for Tibetan independence while he burned. Tibetan exile sources say at least 114 monks and laypeople have self-immolated over the past five years, most of whom have died.

Afghan official: Policeman kills 4 colleagues, 11 missing

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan policeman shot dead four of his colleagues at a checkpoint on a remote stretch of a major southern highway, an official said Tuesday. Another 11 policemen who were manning the checkpoint when the shooting happened on Monday night were still missing, said Gen. Ghulam Sakhi Roghlewanai, police chief of Uruzgan province. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the incident in an email to media. Roghlewanai said it was still unclear what happened at the checkpoint, which is located on the highway between Kandahar and Uruzgan provinces.

Mummy-looking dead man found in yacht off Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police said Tuesday that they were trying to determine the identity and cause of death of a man found dead while sitting slumped in a yacht that was drifting in the Pacific Ocean and which was apparently owned by a German adventurer. Police Chief Inspector Dominador Plaza said the gray decomposing remains of the man resembled a mummy, adding mystery to his death. His body was discovered near the radio in the cabin of a white yacht found last week by Filipino fishermen off the southeastern province of Surigao del Sur. There were no visible signs of foul play, like a gunshot or stabbing wound, Plaza said. "Initially, it looks to us that he died of natural causes, maybe a heart attack," he said by phone. "And death appears to have come suddenly because he was still sitting by the table when he passed away."

World

Shelling near reporters in Syria shows limits of truce

KINSIBBA, Syria (AP)—Artillery shells struck near the main street of a Syrian village controlled by the government on Tuesday, sending international reporters diving for cover and highlighting the fragility of a partial cease-fire that both sides in the civil war say has been repeatedly violated.

AP

A Chinese reporter is bandaged by Russian military officer after he fell while moving to safety during explosions in Kinsibba, Syria, near the border with Turkey Tuesday, March 1, 2016.

The blasts that shook Kinsibba, near the Turkish border, came as the journalists were touring the village under Russian military escort. No one was wounded by the artillery, but some suffered minor cuts as they ran for cover or threw themselves to the ground.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj.-Gen. Igor Konashenkov, who was on the trip, said the shells came from positions held by the al-Qaida-affiliated Nusra Front, which along with the Islamic State group is excluded from the cease-fire that began Saturday.

The U.S. and Russian-brokered "cessation of hostilities" has brought the first wide-scale reduction in violence seen in Syria's five-year civil war, but has been rattled by alleged violations.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told reporters in Geneva on Tuesday that any faction that repeatedly violates the cease-fire can be attacked.

The cease-fire is intended to pave the way for the resumption of peace talks to end the conflict, which has killed more than 250,000 people and displaced half the country's population.

The office of the U.N. envoy for Syria said he has pushed back the planned resumption of talks between the government and the opposition to March 9 for "logistical and practical" reasons. Staffan de Mistura had earlier said the talks -- which last broke down in early February after just a few days -- would resume March 7.

Syrian President Bashar Assad meanwhile told Germany's ARD television that moderate rebels who lay down their arms can expect "full amnesty." But it was unclear whether any rebels would take him up on such an offer after years of civil war, mass detentions and widespread allegations of severe human rights violations by his government.

Osama bin Laden worried wife had tracking device in filling

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hiding in Pakistan, an increasingly paranoid Osama bin Laden suspected Iran of implanting a tracking device in his wife's mouth and drafted a will directing much of his $29 million fortune to be spent on jihad after his death.

The details about the al-Qaida leader's life were released Tuesday in a second batch of letters and other documents seized in a May 2011 raid that killed bin Laden at his secret compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

The letters detail his rift with militants who later broke off from al-Qaida and formed the Islamic State, as well as plans for a media blitz to mark the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. Other correspondence resonates with suspicion and fear.

In a letter to one of his wives who lived in Iran, bin Laden expressed worry that her dental appointment could have allowed Iranians to implant a tracking device under her skin.

"My dear wife," he began. "I was told that you went to a dentist in Iran, and you were concerned about a filling she put in for you. Please let me know in detail ... any suspicions that any of the brothers may have about chips planted in any way."

The Iranian dentist might have used a slightly enlarged syringe to make such an implant, bin Laden wrote in the undated letter.

"The size of the chip is about the length of a grain of wheat and the width of a fine piece of vermicelli," bin Laden said. He asked her to recall the exact date of her dental work, "also about any surgery you had, even if it was only a quick pinch."

Out in the cold: Refugees get no good news at Greek border

IDOMENI, Greece (AP)—Hassan Rasheed's papers have been cleared but the Iraqi refugee has spent days freezing in a tent with no tarp on the ground and flaps that don't close, one of 10,000 migrants stuck at a muddy camp on the border of Greece and Macedonia.

They're hoping for a breakthrough in Europe's troubled negotiations on how to handle the deepening crisis. But there was little sign of that Tuesday.

Austria's chancellor insisted he would not to let his country become a "waiting room for Germany," while authorities from four ex-Yugoslav countries on the migrant route vowed closer cooperation to keep people out.

"I've been at Idomeni for 10 days and it's the fourth day I've been waiting to cross over," the 27-year-old Rasheed said. "Conditions are very bad. There are many ill children who are coughing, and we spent the night in this tent under heavy rain."

The heavily policed border, marked by a twin fence and coils of razor wire, remained closed a day after migrants attempted to push through the barriers and were forced back by Macedonian riot police using tear gas and stun grenades. Before that, sporadic closures since Feb. 19 had slowed the number allowed through to just dozens a day.

Overnight, rain soaked many families, who hung up clothing to dry Tuesday on the border fence.

Environment

Arctic warming makes Northeastern storms, study finds

By YERETH ROSEN
ALASKA DISPATCH NEWS, ANCHORAGE

ANCHORAGE, Alaska—What does loss of Arctic sea ice have to do with snowfall and rain in New England? Plenty, according to chemical evidence amassed by a team of scientists and described in a soon-to-be published study.

A research project analyzing precipitation in New Hampshire, part of the general U.S. Northeast region that has been blasted in recent years by episodes of the "polar vortex," links weather there to the warming Arctic.

The link comes from analysis of water isotopes in precipitation samples collected since 1968 at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest in New Hampshire. The water isotopes—the varying atomic structure of the hydrogen and oxygen that make up the water—identify the precipitation that falls there during fall and winter as originating in the warming Arctic. Isotope analysis was done at University of Alaska Anchorage's Stable Isotope Lab.

Isotopes in water molecules act like a "chemical fingerprint," said Jeff Welker, a UAA biology professor involved in the project. Analysis by Welker, UAA postdoctoral fellow Eric Klein and their research partners at the State University of New York and other institutions parsed out the isotopes associated with the Arctic and matched them to the heavy precipitation at the New Hampshire location.

The analysis also tracked increasing incidences of Arctic-marked rain and snowfall over time with reduced Arctic sea ice—and with polar vortexes like the one that warmed Alaska but chilled the U.S. East Coast in the winter of 2013-14.

The chemical evidence backs the theory that the rapid warming of the Arctic is slowing the jet stream, causing a wavy pattern that brings warm weather to the far north and cold weather to the middle latitudes, Welker and Klein said.

"I don't think it's a smoking gun. But I think it's adding another brick to the wall supporting it," Klein said.

The Arctic-originating water molecules could not reach New Hampshire unless they were pulled by a manipulated jet stream, he said. "In order for the colder, drier source to reach this location, it necessitates some bends of the jet stream," he said.

The Arctic has been warming at twice the global rate, and a large part of that is driven by reduction in summer and fall sea ice—a phenomenon that's a self-fulfilling cycle, because reduced ice absorbs more solar warmth that reduces ice levels further.

According to an emerging theory developed by Rutgers University research professor Jennifer Francis and several other climate scientists, the amplified Arctic warming is significantly altering weather patterns much farther south. With temperature differences between north and south smaller than in the past, and with more open water and more cloud cover sending and holding moisture in the Arctic atmosphere, weather systems are more frequently distorting the normally west-to-east jet stream into meandering loops, causing more stationary patterns and more frequent extreme events well south of the Arctic, according to the theory.

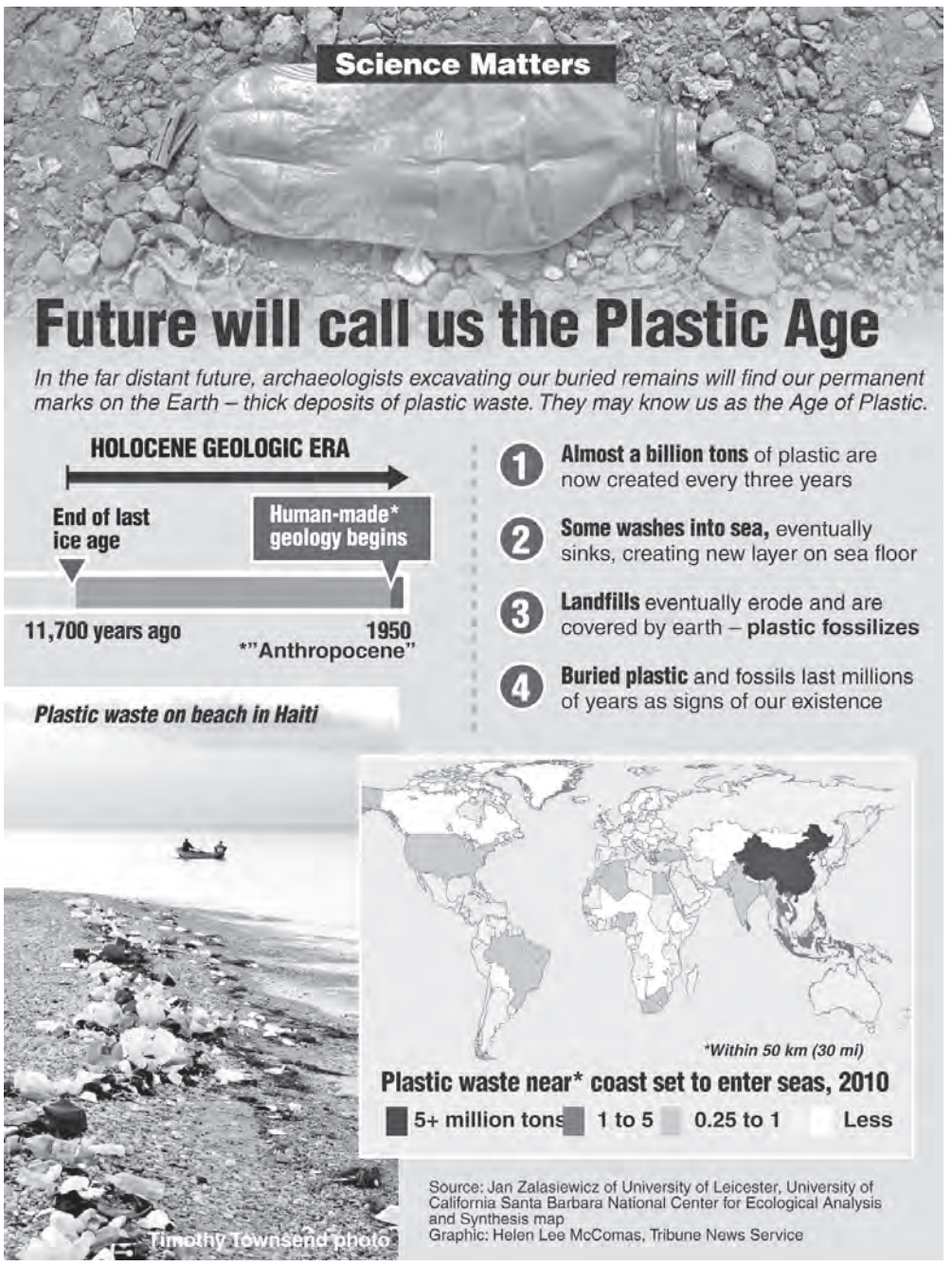
Francis, who was not involved in the isotope study, said it adds some weight to the theory. "It's certainly a completely independent type of evidence," she said.

This winter — with its extremely warm temperatures persisting in the Arctic and a strong El Nino that is behaving differently from past El Ninos—is likely to be material for future study into Arctic-lower latitude links, Francis said.

"I don't see how you can have an Arctic that is 10 to 15 degrees warmer than normal in winter and not have it have an effect on the jet stream and weather farther south," she said.

The isotope analysis done for the new study is made possible by a rain- and snow-collection system set up across the nation that dates back decades, to a time when there were big concerns about acid rain, an environmental problem caused by excessive amounts of sulfur dioxide pollution in the atmosphere.

The longest U.S. records of precipitation isotopes are at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, allowing scientists to examine weather events that occurred decades ago and how they relate to gradual climate change, Welker said. "This has provided us an opportunity to actually demonstrate that this is an interwoven system, and it's being recorded in the precipitation chemistry," he said.


Science Matters
Future will call us the Plastic Age
In the far distant future, archaeologists excavating our buried remains will find our permanent marks on the Earth – thick deposits of plastic waste. They may know us as the Age of Plastic.
HOLOCENE GEOLOGIC ERA
End of last ice age
Human-made* geology begins
11,700 years ago
1950
*"Anthropocene"
1 Almost a billion tons of plastic are now created every three years
2 Some washes into sea, eventually sinks, creating new layer on sea floor
3 Landfills eventually erode and are covered by earth – plastic fossilizes
4 Buried plastic and fossils last millions of years as signs of our existence
Plastic waste on beach in Haiti
*Within 50 km (30 mi)
Plastic waste near* coast set to enter seas, 2010
5+ million tons
1 to 5
0.25 to 1
Less
Source: Jan Zalasiewicz of University of Leicester, University of California Santa Barbara National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis map
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service
Timothy Townsend photo

8 feet above sea level, global warming is more than an idea

By MATTHEW SCHOFIELD
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU

MAAMIGILI, Maldive — As Hussain Khallib's boat chugged into a water channel, he pointed at the shoreline of the approaching island and noted the thin stretch of vegetation between white sand beaches on either side. It's never more than a few feet above the water.

"We spend a lot of time worrying about the idea of rising sea level here," he said. "Many fear they will go to bed one night on dry land, and wake up in the morning in water. But we know the truth is far less dramatic. We will lose our nation and our homes one grain of sand at a time."

Khallib, 21, is one of the estimated 393,000 people who live in Maldives, a nation of 1,200 small islands in the Indian Ocean southwest of India that is considered the world's most at risk to rising sea levels. The United Nations has projected that Maldives could be effectively underwater by 2100.

Most of the nation is about 3 feet above sea level, with a high point of about 8 feet. That makes the idea of rising sea levels no mere abstraction. Residents say they don't have the luxury of not believing in global warming.

"Sea level rise is not merely scientific theory, and for us is not a matter of political debate," said Abdulla Shahid, a member of the Maldives parliament and a former foreign affairs minister. "The threat of sea level rise, to us, is an existential issue. It is a very serious matter."

"If the projections are correct, it means the death of a nation," Shahid said. "The Maldives could be completely inundated by 2085."

Maldives is a water-based country. Kids here don't dream of owning a car as they might in the United States. They dream of the boat they someday might have. Everything about life here is tied to the water—the food people eat, the work they do, what they do for recreation and relaxation.

They are very aware of the water's presence, which makes them especially fearful when they hear predictions that sea level might rise 3 feet. If that happens, 80 percent of Maldives' land would be at risk—more during storms and high seas.

Already, sea level rises threaten the country's freshwater wells in a nation heavily dependent on desalination for drinking water. Access to drinking water is one of the first things Maldives residents talk about. Last year, a fire at a desalinization plant in the capital of Male forced the nation's leaders to fly in drinking water from India.

Maldives is distraught over the continuing debate in the United States over whether climate change and human impact on it are real. The theory behind global warming is so simple that NASA even summarizes it on a website for kids: "Most scientists say it's very likely that most of the warming since the mid-1900s is due to the burning of coal, oil and gas."

In a paper aimed at a more sophisticated audience, the German Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact notes on its website that the production of carbon dioxide and other anthropogenic gases helped drive temperatures up by 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit over the past century. If the world keeps generating greenhouse gases at its current rate, the global temperature will rise 2 to 11 degrees more, the institute says.

And as the Earth warms, the sea rises—first, because warmer water expands and takes up more space, and, second, because the ice caps and inland glaciers melt, sending more water into the ocean.

But it isn't as simple as pouring a glass of water into a bathtub and seeing the result. That's because, despite what one might imagine, the oceans aren't level around the world. Their depths vary because the Earth isn't perfectly spherical and because the polar ice caps are so massive that they have their own gravitational pull and draw water toward them. As ice melts, that gravitational pull decreases. The water at the equator gets even deeper.

"Sixty years of melting at the presently observed rate are enough to launch a process which is then unstoppable and goes on for thousands of years," the Potsdam institute says. That would lead to a sea-level rise of about 10 feet.

Maldives would vanish before that melting was completed. Maybe Florida, too.

"Florida is ground zero for sea level effects in the United States, and the debate here still seems to be whether this is happening—not what to do to prepare for it," said Jay Famiglietti, a senior water scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. "Given our current rates of rise, we can expect some rather severe consequences, and I'm not sure we're ready to deal with the consequences of what's going on."

Khallib, the boat captain, said that for Maldivians, it's not an abstract threat. They can see it. There is no place on these islands that ever lets someone forget the sea is nearby.

The largest industries here are fishing and tourism. Khallib, a diving instructor, remembers that when he was young there was a submerged sandbar leading from his island to a small spit of land with a few small trees, just barely above the lapping waves.

Life & Style

REVIEW: Disney's 'Zootopia' is wildly entertaining

AP
This image released by Disney shows Mayor Lionheart, voiced by J.K. Simmons, left, and Assistant Mayor Bellwether, voiced by Jenny Slate, in a scene from the animated film, "Zootopia."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Just when it was looking like animated animal movies had run out of anything original to say, along comes the smartly amusing, crisply relevant "Zootopia" to handily demonstrate there's still plenty of bite left in the anthropomorphic CG menagerie.

Boasting a pitch perfect voice cast led by a terrific Ginnifer Goodwin as a righteous rural rabbit who becomes the first cotton-tailed police recruit in the mammal-centric city of "Zootopia," the 3-D caper expertly combines keen wit with a gentle, and very timely, message of inclusivity and empowerment.

The engaging result should easily appeal to all creatures great and small, giving this premium Walt Disney Animation Studios effort a paw up on spring break entertainment, not to mention the summer arrival of Universal's animated "The Secret Life of Pets."

As the Zootopia Police Department's sole bunny officer, idealistic Judy Hopps (Goodwin) discovers that breaking barriers can be an uphill climb, especially when the other cops in the force are mainly of the more imposing elephant/rhino/hippo ilk.

Although intrepid Judy can't wait to collar her first perp, Bogo (Idris Elba), Precinct 1's gruff cape buffalo police chief, has other plans, assigning her to parking duty, where she proves her worth by writing 200 tickets before noon on her first day.

But when a number of "Zootopia's" residents abruptly go missing, Bogo gives Judy the green light to do some big time police work and she finds herself partnering up with Nick Wilde (Jason Bateman), a sly, world-weary scam artist of a fox, in a 48-hour bid to crack the case.

Nimbly directed by Byron Howard ("Tangled," ''Bolt") and Rich Moore ("Wreck-It Ralph"), along with co-director Jared Bush, who shares screenplay credit with Phil Johnston, the romp serves up plenty of sharply observed satire (a DMV manned entirely by sloths is played to hilariously protracted effect) wrapped up in judicious life lessons that never feel preachy or shoehorned-in.

While Goodwin and Bateman are a voice-casting dream team come true as a dysfunctional duo who learn to follow their instincts over preconceived notions, they're joined by a nicely diverse supporting ensemble that also includes J.K. Simmons, Tommy Chong, Octavia Spencer and Shakira as a gazelle pop star who performs the film's original song, "Try Everything," co-written by hit-makers Sia and Stargate.

Also making their lines count are Jenny Slate as a not-so-sheepish sheep who serves as "Zootopia's" predator-averse assistant mayor and Maurice LaMarsh as an arctic shrew version of Don Corleone named Mr. Big.

Visually, the "Zootopia" canvas pops—with or without the 3-D glasses—thanks to a gorgeously vibrant color palette and whimsical architectural scales orchestrated by production designer David Goetz. His work is in keeping with an all-mammal parallel universe comprised of distinct microclimates like sunny Bunnyburrow, icy Tundratown and self-explanatory Little Rodentia.

Composer Michael Giacchino, meanwhile, in his first non-Pixar animated feature assignment, delivers a typically buoyant score, playfully tossing in music cues that pay affectionate homage to Bernard Herrmann and Nino Rota.

"The Book of Life," a Disney release, is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association of America for "some thematic elements, rude humor and action." Running time: 95 minutes.

Lee Reherman, 'Hawk' on 'American Gladiators,' dead at 49

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lee Reherman, the former Ivy League football star who shot to fame as the towering, muscular Hawk on the popular 1990s television show "American Gladiators," died Tuesday. He was 49.

Reherman, who followed "Gladiators" with a successful career as an actor-producer, died at his home in Manhattan Beach, his publicist, Anthony Turk, told The Associated Press.

Cause of death wasn't immediately known, but the former athlete hadn't been feeling well in recent days after undergoing hip replacement surgery, Turk said. He died soon after his girlfriend returned home Tuesday to find him ill.

A standout offensive tackle at Cornell University who also had a tryout with the Miami Dolphins, Reherman wasn't just the huge, grappling athlete viewers saw on "American Gladiator." He was a scholar as well.

After graduating with honors from Cornell, he earned a master's in business administration and was pursuing a doctorate in economics at the University of California, Los Angeles, when "American Gladiators" came calling.

At 6-feet-4 and with a body builder's physique, the intimidating but charismatic Hawk became an immediate fan favorite as he did battle with other elite athletes.

"Anybody who came in contact with him, even people who may have been on a film set with him for just one day, Lee was very much loved by everyone," said Kathy Carter, his manager of 17 years.

After "Gladiators" ended he went on to work constantly in television and film over the next 20 years.

He had small roles in the Arnold Schwarzenegger movie "Last Action Hero" and in "Star Trek Into Darkness." He made guest appearances on such TV shows as "Ellen," ''Caroline in the City, "Gilmore Girls," ''The X-Files" and "The Shield."

AP
This image provided by Disney Channel shows, Zendaya, left, as K.C. Cooper and Lee Reherman, standing, as Victor, in the episode "Operation: Other Side, Part 2," of the television show "K.C. Undercover,"

Possible jurors called for trial between Hulk Hogan, Gawker

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Just before he was about to step into a Florida courtroom Tuesday morning, former pro wrestler Hulk Hogan issued a tweet to his 1.4 million followers.

"Time for the real main event! "I AM" going to slam another Giant! Hogan vrs Gawker! Watcha Gonna Do Gawker? Only Justice Brother HH."

The "main event" he was referring to? Not a wrestling smackdown, but a $100 million legal battle with a popular news website over his privacy.

After years of wrangling, a legal fight is unfolding in a Florida courtroom between Hogan and the news and gossip website Gawker over a sex tape the celebrity made with the wife of radio personality Bubba the Love Sponge Clem.

The ex-wrestler, whose legal name is Terry Bollea, sued Gawker after it published parts of the video in 2012. The video was recorded in 2006. He says his privacy was violated, but Gawker says the publication was a legitimate scoop because Hogan had talked openly about his sex life before, in forums such as Howard Stern's radio show.

Hogan is seeking $100 million from Gawker for posting the video of him and Heather Cole, the ex-wife of Clem, Hogan's one-time friend.

Hogan appeared in court wearing all-black, a cross necklace and a black bandanna.

Last year, Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Pamela Campbell ruled that Hogan could wear a plain bandanna in court, a far cry from his usually flashy gear in the ring and on TV.

Jury selection began Tuesday. Nearly 500 potential jurors were summoned; about 100 of those were told to return Wednesday.

Many of the prospective jurors weren't thrilled about the possibility of a weekslong case. Of the 114 who responded to a summons, all but 48 were dismissed by noon. Those who weren't dismissed were asked about their exposure to the story in the news media and whether they follow celebrity news.

In June, Gawker founder Nick Denton told The Associated Press that the fight for the right to publish the video was an important one, both for his news organization and the First Amendment. Denton said Gawker had the right to publish the edited video because Hogan talked in detail about his sex life before the video's release, which made the story newsworthy.

Appeals court puts Bill Cosby's criminal case on hold

By MARYCLAIRE DALE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bill Cosby's criminal sex-assault case was temporarily halted days before a key hearing while a Pennsylvania appeals court considers his effort to have the case thrown out before trial.

The Pennsylvania Superior Court granted Cosby a postponement Tuesday while the court decides whether to hear Cosby's pretrial appeal. His preliminary hearing had been set for next week.

Cosby, 78, is accused of drugging and molesting a Temple University employee in his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004.

He said he had a promise from a former district attorney that he would never be charged over his encounter with Andrea Constand. However, a different district attorney reopened the case last year and filed charges in December, weeks before the statute of limitations expired.

The preliminary hearing to determine if probable cause exists to send the case to trial had been set for March 8. The hearing seemed likely to be postponed unless the Superior Court quickly decided to quash his appeal.

Prosecutors have argued that he does not have the right to a pretrial appeal and should instead file the usual post-trial appeal if he is convicted. A Montgomery County judge who heard two days of evidence on the issue agreed and refused to ask the appeals court to intervene. The judge, Common Pleas Judge Steven O'Neill, could end up with the case if it goes to trial.

O'Neill found no credible evidence of a binding agreement that Cosby would never be charged. The former district attorney, Bruce Castor, had testified for Cosby but acknowledged there was no written agreement forged.

Cosby is embroiled in civil litigation in several states, but the Pennsylvania case is the only one to lead to criminal charges. He has teams of lawyers for the case itself, for appellate issues and for a countersuit he filed last month against accuser Andrea Constand. He also is embroiled in defamation lawsuits with some of the dozens of women around the country who accuse him of molesting them.

Cosby has posted $1 million bail in the Pennsylvania case. He faces five to 10 years in prison if convicted of felony indecent assault.

AP
In this Dec. 30, 2015 file photo Bill Cosby arrives at court to face a felony charge of aggravated indecent assault, in Elkins Park, Pa.

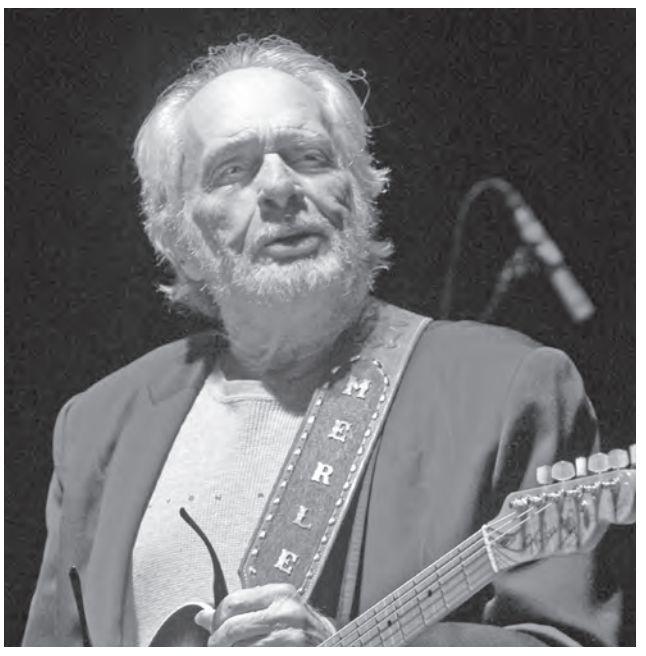
Country icon Merle Haggard in hospital due to pneumonia

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country icon Merle Haggard is in a California hospital for treatment of a recurring bout of double pneumonia.

A statement from his publicist on Tuesday said Haggard has had to postpone his concert dates in March.

The 78-year-old singer had also cancelled some dates in February because he was still feeling weak from a previous case of pneumonia in both lungs, but then returned to the stage last month.

The statement said that his doctors wanted him to take one more month off the road to rest and recover.



AP
In this May 3, 2014 file photo, Merle Haggard performs in concert at Harrah's Resort in Atlantic City, N.J. Haggard is in a California hospital for treatment of reoccurring bout of double pneumonia.

Disney revives 'High School Musical' with open casting call

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Disney Channel is reviving "High School Musical."

The channel said Tuesday it's starting a nationwide casting search for the latest sequel in the hit TV movie franchise.

"High School Musical 4" will introduce new East High Wildcats and their cross-town rivals, the West High Knights, the channel said.

The cast of the original 2006 movie included Zac Efron, Vanessa Hudgens, Ashley Tisdale and Corbin Bleu. The sequel comes amid network TV's fixation on musicals, with projects ranging from NBC's "The Sound of Music" to Fox's "Grease," which starred Hudgens.

The Disney Channel said details about upcoming open casting calls will be available online soon at www.disneychannel.com/opencall .

An air date for "High School Musical 4" was not announced.

New signs for Robin Williams Tunnel installed

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A tunnel with rainbow arches that connects the Golden Gate Bridge to greater Marin County has officially become the Robin Williams tunnel.

The San Francisco Chronicle reports (http://bit.ly/1XZUbzl) the new Robin Williams Tunnel signs were installed Monday night.

The tunnel was unofficially known as the Waldo Tunnel.

The California State Senate last year approved a resolution to change the tunnel's name to honor the late actor and comedian.

Williams grew up and lived in the Bay Area.

The two signs—one for each side of the tunnel—cost $3,000 that was paid for using private donations.

Hard-working sister balks at supporting lazy brothers

DEAR ABBY: I am a community college sophomore (age 20) in an international honor society, double-majoring in biotechnology and biological sciences. My dream is to become a cardiologist.

I have worked hard and excelled at my studies, as well as in my friendships and sports. However, my brothers have not. My older brother, "Aaron," barely graduated from community college and my younger brother, "Greg," dropped out after his first semester.

I know it's not healthy for me to think this way, but I am afraid I am going to be the one who has to support them. Aaron plays video games all day, while Greg does nothing. I'm afraid I'll be stuck playing "Mommy" for my adult brothers for the rest of my days.

How do I get across to them that they're not children anymore and they need to take their education seriously?

NOBODY'S MOMMY IN MARYLAND

DEAR NOBODY'S MOMMY: Where are your brothers living now? With your parents? If that's the case—and I suspect it is—that message should come from them. That your parents would allow Aaron to sit around all day playing video games rather than become independent means they are his enablers.

There is truth to the saying, "The Lord helps those who help themselves." Warn the boys that unless they start preparing for their future, they could wind up living in the street, because when your parents go, you have no intention of supporting them financially. That responsibility is not and should not be yours.

DEAR ABBY: I just got married to a beautiful woman. She's tall and elegant. The problem is, she's addicted to taking pictures of herself. She takes at least 100 of them a day.

When we're driving, she's busy taking selfies. When we go out, she asks me to take pictures of her. If I tell her I don't want to take more pictures, she pleads with me to take "just one more," which really means five.

When we are out to dinner and I get up to go to the restroom, she asks total strangers to take her picture. When we were on vacation and we went to the pool, she wore full makeup for two reasons, she said: (1) She's not putting her head under water, and (2) she wants some pictures taken of her.

I have told her many times how much this annoys me, but she says I am preventing her from what she enjoys. What can I do to help her?

TOO MANY PHOTO OPS

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR TOO MANY PHOTO OPS: You have married a beautiful (tall, elegant) piece of arm candy. Because you did not mention even one other positive quality about her, I assume this is what you wanted. Her vanity/insecurity about her looks is the "accessory" that goes with your trophy.

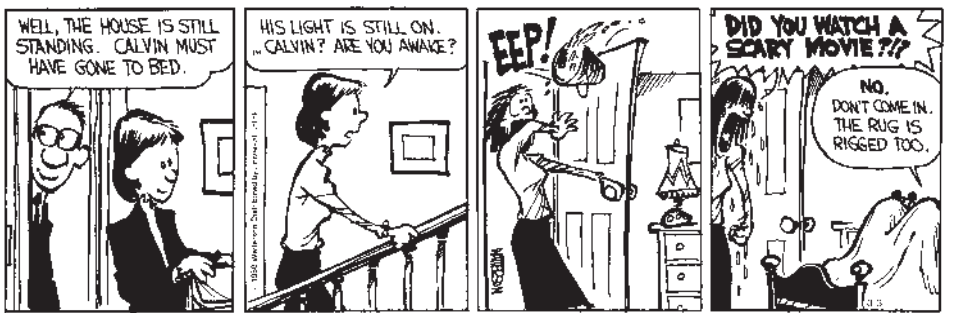
It will take effort on your part to help her recognize that what she has to offer beneath the surface is at least as important as her looks. (It may also take the services of a psychologist, if she's willing.)

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WELL, THE HOUSE IS STILL STANDING. CALVIN MUST HAVE GONE TO BED.
HIS LIGHT IS STILL ON. CALVIN? ARE YOU AWAKE?
EEP!
DID YOU WATCH A SCARY MOVIE?!?
NO. DON'T COME IN. THE RUG IS RIGGED TOO.

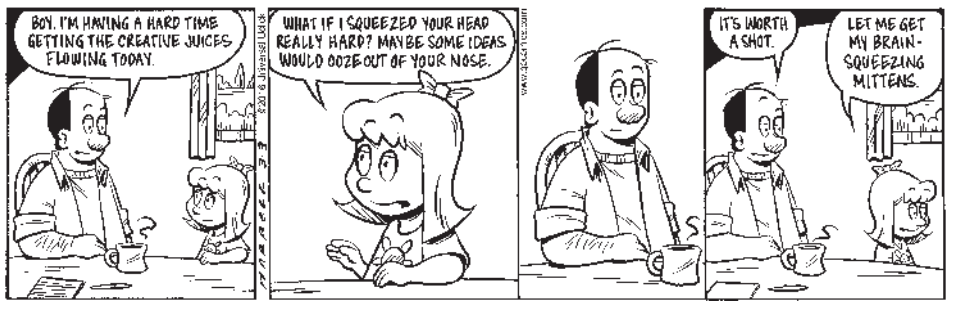
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

SO ASK YOURSELF...
WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A WINNER AND A LOSER?
A WINNER DOES NOT SCREAM INTO HIS SECURITY BLANKET
OOPS
LOSER
JIM DAVIS 3-3

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


BOY. I'M HAVING A HARD TIME GETTING THE CREATIVE JUICES FLOWING TODAY.
WHAT IF I SQUEEZED YOUR HEAD REALLY HARD? MAYBE SOME IDEAS WOULD OOZE OUT OF YOUR NOSE.
IT'S WORTH A SHOT.
LET ME GET MY BRAIN-SQUEEZING MITTENS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THIS SHAMPOO SAYS YOU'LL ONLY NEED HALF AS MUCH WATER AND HALF THE TIME TO WASH YOUR HAIR.
HOW COULD THAT BE?
THE DIRECTIONS ARE SIMPLY, "LATHER, RINSE, NOW GET ON WITH YOUR LIFE."

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

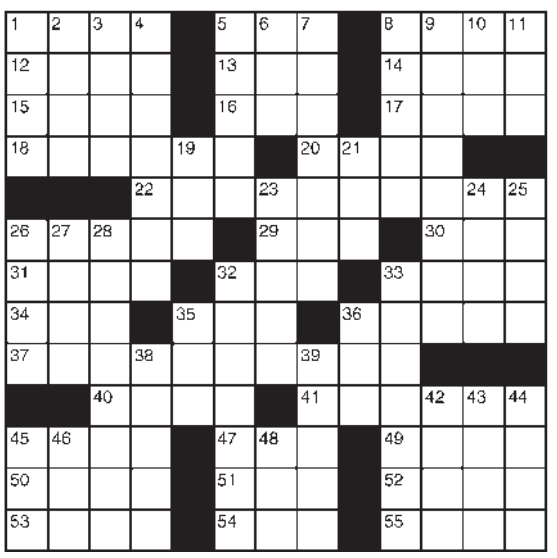
1 Get ready, briefly
5 Mag. staff
8 Nile bird
12 Mad king of theater
13 Soft shoe, for short
14 "— nome" ("Rigoletto" aria)
15 Architect Saarinen
16 Buck-eyes' sch.
17 Sorts
18 Solvent
20 Nemeses
22 Wild brawl
26 Actress Debra
29 Jungfrau, for one
30 Chairman of China
31 Construction piece
32 Get older
33 Morsels
34 Yule quaff
35 St. crosser
36 Secret store
37 "Congratulations!"
40 Mil. training gp.
41 Owing money
45 Nitwit
47 Biblical boat
49 Tennis legend Arthur
50 Say it's so
51 Female hare
52 — Bator
53 The Red Planet
54 Takes too much, in med. lingo
55 Type

DOWN

1 Entreaty
2 Coral formation
3 British noble
4 Typo catcher
5 Overact
6 Two, in Acapulco
7 Minor melee
8 Less friendly
9 Vinegar variety
10 Annoy
11 "Mayday!"
19 Curator's focus
21 "Alley —"
23 Avid
24 Wood strip
25 Misplace
26 Pong preceder
27 Peek suffix
28 Judicial silencer
32 Guacamole base
33 German art school of the 1920s
35 Astern
36 Inmate
38 Entrances
39 "Holy cow!"
42 Norway's capital
43 Blacken on a grill
44 Superman's alias
45 River blocker
46 Eggs
48 Fish stick?

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jessica Biel, 34; Julie Bowen, 46; Tone Loc, 50; Jackie Joyner-Kersee, 54.

Happy Birthday: Stay focused on your goals, even if there are distractions that may be leading you in a different direction. You'll feel regret if you don't follow through with your plans. Take care of the legal documentation required to move forward. Gather information and put what you want in writing. It's up to you to call the shots if you want to stay in control. Your numbers are 6, 13, 18, 23, 29, 31, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Embrace life and look for adventure and excitement. Love is in the stars, and romance will turn into a medley of interesting options. Your innovative way of doing things will capture the interest of someone noteworthy. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Focus on your beliefs or in a relationship that needs a little nurturing. Money can't bring you friendship, but your undivided attention and thoughtfulness can. A pragmatic financial deal looks promising, but do your own fact-finding first. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Chase your goals relentlessly and you will raise your self-esteem and set higher standards. Emotional issues can be addressed, and innovative solutions to your problems can be discovered. Get a promise in writing. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Take the plunge and don't be afraid to do things differently. Your unique qualities will capture positive attention and help you build a strong foundation both at home and at work. Put your energy into doing, not deliberating. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Make vocational changes if you aren't feeling satisfied. Pick up additional skills or revamp your resume. Attend networking functions that will help you work your way into a profession that interests you. Love and romance will enhance your life. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll be attracted to unusual people. Your interest in what others do or how they live will lead to information and ideas that will alter your direction and open up a world of opportunity. Do what you can to grow personally and professionally. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Be a participant. Try something new and exciting, and you will develop an interest in something that will improve your life and your overall quality of life. Romance will lead to positive personal changes. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Be open to suggestions offered by outsiders. Someone close to you will be manipulative and looking out for his or her interests, not yours. Let your intuition guide you, and distance yourself from anyone who is argumentative or pushy. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't let your desire for escape lead to risk and regret. Think matters through before you commit to something you know little about. Focus on home, family and being the best you can be. Romance will satisfy your appetite for adventure. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Negotiations and settlements look promising. An unusual opportunity will turn in to an interesting venture. Don't let impulsiveness get the best of you. What you have to gain will be worth the wait. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Stick close to home. A disciplined attitude will help you clear up unfinished business. Pay more attention to the way you look and what you have to offer. If you present your skills properly, it could turn into extra cash. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Put more energy into the things you want to accomplish. Take the time to develop a good relationship with someone who plays a major role in your life. A spirit of equality and compromise will be necessary. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are disciplined, proactive and friendly. You are intelligent and detailed.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4			2					9
	3	5					1	
				4			6	
			3		5			4
		3		9		1		
8			7		2			
	9			6				
	6					2	4	
1					4			3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	3	7	4	8	1	2	9	5
4	5	1	2	3	9	6	7	8
2	8	9	7	5	6	1	4	3
7	1	3	8	4	5	9	2	6
5	6	2	9	1	3	4	8	7
9	4	8	6	7	2	5	3	1
3	2	4	5	6	8	7	1	9
8	7	6	1	9	4	3	5	2
1	9	5	3	2	7	8	6	4

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

GUITAR CAPOS Solution: 10 letters

S	E	I	G	C	L	A	S	S	I	C	A	L	N	E
T	G	V	N	S	T	C	E	F	F	E	K	C	E	N
R	N	P	I	V	O	T	K	K	L	O	F	S	T	U
E	I	O	R	T	G	R	I	P	A	D	J	U	S	T
T	R	R	T	E	A	U	P	M	A	L	C	N	P	M
C	P	U	S	E	C	L	S	A	L	A	D	N	A	M
H	S	R	T	R	N	N	E	S	T	E	Ⓡ	F	R	B
E	I	E	R	A	E	O	A	R	A	Ⓐ	O	C	T	N
Z	K	L	U	I	L	R	P	M	Ⓑ	B	H	L	S	O
E	U	L	B	S	H	B	U	A	R	A	C	A	E	I
E	O	O	B	E	I	N	A	S	R	O	T	I	R	T
U	Z	R	E	G	G	I	R	T	S	T	F	T	E	I
Q	U	N	R	T	H	O	L	D	A	E	S	R	V	S
S	O	U	N	D	E	R	U	C	E	S	R	A	E	O
T	B	D	P	O	R	D	H	H	C	T	I	P	L	P

©2016 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 3/3

Adjust, Attach, Banjo, Bar, Bass, Bouzoukis, Chart, Chord, Clamp, Classical, Drop D, Effects, Folk, Fret, Grip, Higher, Hold, Lever, Mandalas, Neck, Note, Partial, Performance, Pitch, Pivot, Position, Pressure, Raise, Relative, Roller, Rubber, Secure, Sound, Spikes, Spring, Squeeze, Strap On, Straps, Stretch, String, Tablature, Tone, Trigger, Tune

Yesterday's Answer: Pushups

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2**, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(2) Bookkeeper, (8) Houseworker, (2) Computer Support Specialist. Minimum Salary. Mail resume to MTO Maintenance (Saipan), Inc. at P.O. Box 504053, Saipan, MP 96950.

MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
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Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

Francisco C. Cabrera
dba Design Florist/Cabrera Funeral

Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Administrative Assistant
- Must have at least 3 years experience.
- Able to work flexible hours.
- Must have a driver's license.

(1) Funeral Service Assistant
- Must have a driver's license.
- Able to work flexible hours.
- Good personality.

All interested applicants must apply in person.
Cabrera Center Bldg., Beach Road, Garapan

Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School

Is requesting applicants for:

(2) Child Development Center/ Pre-School Teachers

- Minimum Two years experience working with young children in a school setting
- Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree
- CPR / First Aid Certified
- Knowledge of child development and curriculum
- Must be a member in good standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
- Willing to adhere to all school policies and procedures

Send resumes to:
Saipan SDA School Principal
P.O. Box 501063 Saipan MP 96950

Vacancy Announcement

(1) Trash Collector - At least High School graduate with valid driver's license. Needs to be physically fit and willing to work flexible time and must be hardworking.

Submit Applications To:
AYD Services Inc. Tel.# 235-7011

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Tour Guide (1)
Minimum of three years work experience as a Tour Guide. Swimming skill with tour guidance knowledge for the customers in English, Chinese, and Japanese.

Please mail resume no later than March 19, 2016 to PMB 525, Box 10000, Saipan MP 96950 or email it to gaiasaipan@gmail.com
For more information, please call: 484-0305
GAIA, LLC.

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Friday, March 4, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes

II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** [1]

III. **REPORTS**
   a. Chair's Report
   b. Executive Director's Report

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**
   a. Executive Director Position

V. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** [2]

VI. **MISCELLANEOUS/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

[1] Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

CTSI Logistics is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Cargo and Freight Agent (1)
Associate's Degree with a minimum of 2 years experience in a logistics, freight brokerage or warehouse services business. Must know how to operate a forklift with certification. Must be able to do strenuous work with some lifting and carrying of small items on the job. Licensed to drive 4x6 wheel closed vans and must have obtained training or certification in handling hazardous materials, Occupational Safety, Hazardous Waste Operation and IAC CCSF authorized screener. Must be proficient in MS Office and Oracle-based programs and available to work on evenings and weekend hours.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume / application to CTSI Logistics, Lower Base not later than March 11, 2016.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

www.saipantribune.com

G4S

Job Vacancy Announcement

(10) Lifeguard

Submit applications, police clearance, and copy of certification at G4S Office located at Beach Road Ladera Building, Chalan Lau-lau.
For more information call (670) 233-3238/39 or email at cnmi@gu.g4s.com
www.g4s.mp

EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY: G4S is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Employer and observes all federal employment opportunity regulations, practices and policies. Federal Law requires presentation of proof of identity and eligibility to work in the United States. We comply with this law on a nondiscriminatory basis. Must be 18 years or older and must be able to speak, read and write English. Open to all qualified U.S. Workers without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex citizenship and is in compliance with Title II of the Genetics Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA). This job is open to all U.S. Veterans, Persons with Disabilities and Women In Non-traditional occupations that are qualified, willing, able and available to perform the job.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Registered Nurse
- Must Pass NCLEX-RN w/current CNMI RN License
- Must hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Attended a Hemodialysis Training Program
- One to two years hemodialysis experience or related field
- English language skills-proficient in verbal, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- In-service training with Baxter Phoenix Machine
- Experience with Ameriwater Bicarbonate Distribution System

Interested applicants must submit application or resume to St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., at Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit an application will be on Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 4:00pm. For more information, please contact (670) 234-2901 ext. 128.

K.L. CARR ENTERPRISES
P.O. Box 502535, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 670-323-2428
Email: klcarrenterprises.2014@yahoo.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position: **Accountant/Auditor**
Salary Offered: $15.00/hour
Job Description: Prepares, examines, or analyzes accounting records, financial statements, or other financial reports to assess accuracy, completeness, and conformance to reporting and procedural standards; Reports to management regarding the finances of establishment; Develops, implements, modifies, and documents recordkeeping and accounting systems; Computes taxes owed and prepare tax returns, ensuring compliance with payment, reporting or other tax requirements; Oversees day-to-day activities of office, accounting, shop, as well as field workers; Reviews contracts, project billing, and change orders prepared by other staff and counter check figures prior to finalizing and submission to contract owner; Prepares and generates end of month reports, maintains record keeping and prepares accounts for management information; Prepares annual tax reconciliation, budget, and attend to audit.

Minimum Qualifications: With a college degree of Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Major in Accounting). With at least 7 years of relevant work experience as an Accountant or Auditor.

Place of Employment: Successful candidate will be assigned to work in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

How to Apply: Submit a professional resume to:

K.L. CARR ENTERPRISES, INC.
Office Address: Chalan Pale Arnold, Tanapag, Saipan, CNMI
Phone: 670-323-2428
Email: klcarrenterprises.2014@yahoo.com

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), K.L. CARR ENTERPRISES, INC. will make reasonable accommodations during any and all phases of the selection process for individuals with a disability. Please call (670) 323-2428 to request accommodations. K.L. CARR ENTERPRISES, INC. is an equal opportunity employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or disability.

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For opportunities contact us at 235-6397

WHATZIT Solution: It's on the tip of my tongue

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Curry-less Warriors top Hawks to stay perfect at home

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Draymond Green hit an off-balance 3-pointer as the shot clock expired with 40.2 seconds remaining in overtime, and the Golden State Warriors escaped with a 109-105 win against the Atlanta Hawks on Tuesday night while Stephen Curry watched in street clothes with an injured ankle.

Andrew Bogut saved the ball from going out of bounds, and then Green got the shot off just in time with his legs splitting in the air while avoiding Kent Bazemore's diving steal attempt.

Klay Thompson made a go-ahead 3-pointer with 2:54 remaining and another big basket at the 11.4-second mark on the way to 26 points. The Warriors won their second straight overtime game to earn a franchise-best 43rd straight regular-season home victory and 25th in a row this season.

Golden State (54-5) can tie the Bulls' 44-game unbeaten mark at home from March 30, 1995, to April 4, 1996, when the Warriors host Oklahoma City on Thursday. They are also chasing the `95-96 Chicago team's record 72-win season.

The Warriors won their sixth straight overall, improved to 5-0 in OT and haven't lost at Oracle Arena since a 113-111 defeat to the Bulls on Jan. 27, 2015.

Atlanta's Paul Millsap missed a wide open 3-pointer with 24 seconds left in regulation, and then Thompson and Bogut each missed potential winning shots in the closing seconds.

Millsap scored 19 points for Atlanta, which rallied from a 14-point deficit to force overtime before dropping to 0-4 in OT.

Reigning NBA MVP Curry sat out with a tender left ankle he injured at Oklahoma City on Saturday night before hitting the long, winning 3-pointer in overtime. Curry, with three straight 40-point games, was named Western Conference Player of the Week on Monday after averaging 43.8 points over four games.

No Curry equaled some no-shows as many prime seats were vacant.

Shaun Livingston started in Curry's place and had six points, seven rebounds and three assists in his 600th career game. Leandro Barbosa came off the bench to score nine of his 11 points in his first 5 minutes on the floor, while Bogut wound up with 19 points.

The Warriors kicked off March by the playing the first of 17 games over the final 24 at Oracle Arena after just two at home in February.

AP

Golden State Warriors' Draymond Green, center, fights for a loose ball against Atlanta Hawks' Kyle Korver, left, and Kent Bazemore during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, March 1, 2016, in Oakland, Calif.

Green added 15 points, 13 rebounds, eight assists and four steals in Golden State's first home game since Feb. 9 after the Warriors completed an impressive 6-1 trip in which they won the last five following a 137-105 loss at Portland on Feb. 19—and sealed their playoff berth, too, in the quest for another championship.

Heat 129, Bulls 111

In Miami, Hassan Whiteside scored a career-high 26 points and grabbed 14 rebounds, and the Miami Heat set a franchise record by shooting 67.5 percent on the way to rolling past the Chicago Bulls 129-111 on Tuesday night.

Joe Johnson added 24 points in his Miami home debut. The previous Heat record for shooting percentage in a regular-season game was 63.4 percent on Dec. 16, 2013, against Utah.

Chicago was within 108-102 with 5:14 left, before Miami finished on a 21-9 run. No team had shot better in an NBA game this season than the 61.8 percent posted by San Antonio against Philadelphia on Dec. 7.

Derrick Rose returned from a three-game absence because of injury and scored 17 points for Chicago, which lost for the 17th time in 25 games and fell to the No. 9 spot in the Eastern Conference race. Pau Gasol had 15 points, nine rebounds and six assists.

Trail Blazers 104, Knicks 85

In New York, Damian Lillard scored 30 points, CJ McCollum had 21 of his 25 in the second half and Portland earned its sixth straight road victory.

The Blazers followed a fantastic February with a blistering start to March, winning for the 18th time in their last 22 games.

Lillard reached the 30-point mark for the eighth time in nine games and had 14, nearly half of them, in the final 4:25 of the first half.

Carmelo Anthony had 23 points and 10 rebounds for the Knicks, so hopeless in their 15th loss in 18 games that fans spent much of the fourth quarter chanting for Jimmer Fredette, who is nearing the end of his 10-day contract. The former college player of the year finally got in for the final 3:13 and finished with four points.

Hornets 126, Suns 92

In Charlotte, Kemba Walker scored 26 points, leading the Hornets to the runaway win.

Al Jefferson had 19 points and seven rebounds for Charlotte, which has won nine of 12. Nicolas Batum and reserve Jeremy Lamb scored 15 points apiece.

The Suns had five players score in double figures in their 16th consecutive road loss. Alex Len had 18 points and 12 rebounds, and Mirza Teletovic scored 17 points.

Charlotte led by 26 points at halftime and opened its biggest lead at 115-72 on Troy Daniels' 3-pointer with 7:56 left in the fourth quarter.

Mavericks 121, Magic 108

In Dallas, Wesley Matthews scored 21 points, and Dallas beat Orlando for its third straight win.

The Mavericks made a season-high 56 percent of their field goal attempts (43 for 77).

Zaza Pachulia had his 24th double-double of the season with 17 points and 10 rebounds. Dirk Nowitzki scored 19 points, and Chandler Parsons and J.J. Barea each had 17.

Ersan Ilyasova scored 22 points for the Magic. Nikola Vucevic had 18, all in the first half, and Elfrid Payton and Dewayne Dedmon added 12 apiece.

Lakers 107, Nets 101

In Los Angeles, D'Angelo Russell scored 39 points and hit two of his eight 3-pointers in the final minute, leading the Los Angeles Lakers to a 107-101 victory over the Brooklyn Nets on Tuesday night.

While Kobe Bryant sat out with a sore right shoulder, the Lakers snapped their eight-game losing streak with a spectacular game from the 20-year-old Russell, who scored 16 points in the fourth quarter and went 14 for 21 from the field.

Brook Lopez had 23 points before fouling out with 2:43 left for the Nets, who fell to 2/3 on their nine-game trip with back-to-back losses at Staples Center.

Russell hit a 3-pointer with 53 seconds left and another with 30 seconds to play, capping a spectacular night for the No. 2 overall pick in the draft. His 39 points were the most by a rookie this season.

SIDEBAR Martin accepts buyout from Timberwolves

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—With the clock ticking down to the final minutes, the Minnesota Timberwolves and Kevin Martin agreed to a buyout of the veteran shooting guard's contract late Tuesday night.

Martin confirmed the agreement in a text message to The Associated Press shortly before the 11 p.m. deadline for him to be eligible to play in the postseason for another team. With the Timberwolves near the bottom of the Western Conference with a young and rebuilding roster, the 33-year-old Martin ultimately decided to take the buyout to pursue a spot on a team that is headed to the playoffs.

Martin thanked Timberwolves owner Glen Taylor and his wife Becky for their support over the last two-plus seasons in Minnesota, saying they provided "first-class treatment" since his first day with the team.

Martin signed a four-year deal in 2013 that included a player option at about $7.4 million for next season. That option became a sticking point with some teams during trade talks last month, with some potential suitors not wanting to take on the possibility of more money on the salary cap for next season. When the trade deadline passed, Martin and the Wolves eventually engaged in buyout talks that dragged on for five days before Martin ultimately decided to take the deal.

Martin has been one of the most consistent shooters in the league over the last decade and could provide a big boost off the bench for a team like San Antonio, Cleveland or Dallas. But he has struggled this season, averaging just 10.6 points and shooting 36.9 percent from 3-point range in 39 games. He dealt with a wrist injury early in the season and had not played much recently because the Wolves did not want to risk him getting injured while they were discussing possible trades.

ESPN first reported the buyout.

Martin also thanked the Adelman and Saunders families for the time they spent with him in Minnesota. One of the reasons Martin decided to sign with the Timberwolves was the presence of coach Rick Adelman, who had worked with Martin in Sacramento and Houston. Adelman coached Martin with the Timberwolves before retiring in part to help his wife, Mary Kay, seek treatments for a seizure disorder.

Flip Saunders was the man who signed Martin with the Wolves, and he died suddenly just before this season started after a battle with Hodgkin lymphoma.

"The past two years have been the toughest to witness what you guys have gone through," Martin texted, referencing assistant coaches Ryan Saunders and David Adelman, who are the sons of Flip Saunders and Rick Adelman. "Just know it has helped me respect more than just the game. I was blessed to learn so much, on and off the court, from my favorite two NBA legacy families."

Martin also thanked his "brothers in that locker room," athletic trainers Arnie Kander, Gregg Farnam and Mark Kyger, strength coaches David Crewe and Koichi Sato and equipment manager Clayton Wilson and assistant Cory Johnson.

Broncos place exclusive franchise tag on Miller

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Von Miller's contract talks may be amicable. They won't be abridged.

The Broncos placed their exclusive franchise tag on the Super Bowl 50 MVP on Tuesday after Denver general manager John Elway and Miller's agent were unable to agree on a long-term contract for the star linebacker who expects "peaceful" negotiations.

The one-year tender offer means Miller's salary will be no less than the average of the top five salaries at his position. That's about one and a-half times the $9.754 million he made last season.

Both sides are confident they'll work out an extension before the July 15 deadline, however, that will make the 26-year-old pass-rusher yet another $100 million megastar.

"We've had productive talks with Von's representation, and we'll continue those discussions with the goal of making sure Von remains a Bronco well into the future," Elway said in a statement.

No other team can negotiate with Miller, who led Denver's destructive defense to a 24-10 victory over Cam Newton and the Carolina Panthers in the Super Bowl last month.

The outside linebacker who has 60 sacks in his first five NFL seasons was Elway's first draft pick back in 2011, taken one selection after the Panthers made Newton the No. 1 overall choice.

Miller has said he expected negotiations to be friendly and the sides exchanged offers at the NFL's scouting combine last week but were unable to bridge the gap by Tuesday's deadline for teams to tag a franchise player.

AP
In this Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015, file photo, Denver Broncos outside linebacker Von Miller celebrates a sack against the San Diego Chargers during the second half of an NFL football game in San Diego.

The Associated Press left a message with Miller and his agent, Joby Branion, on Tuesday.

Miller made an appearance on NFL Network on Monday, and said, "I have never been franchised before, so I can't really say, 'Hey, I don't want to be franchised. I don't want to do this.' I can tell you what: I want to be with the Denver Broncos. I want to be with Derek Wolfe, Chris Harris, all those guys, D.T. (Demaryius Thomas), I want to be with those guys my whole career, and whatever it takes to get it done I am down for."

Miller said a day after his Super Bowl performance that negotiations on a contract extension won't get acrimonious.

"Mr. Elway, he has played in the National Football League. He is one of the best (general managers) that there is. We're here today because of him. I have people representing my situation as well and it's going to be a peaceful thing. I am not really worried about it," Miller declared.

Elway has called Miller the best player on the planet and said his maturity has allowed him to reach superstardom.

"I think it's a compliment to him and the people around him with some of the things that he had to go through when he was younger. He's grown up tremendously," Elway said before Miller led the team's victory parade in front of 1 million fans. "I think DeMarcus Ware has had a tremendous effect on him, too. He's been a big brother for him and Von has responded. That's why I'm happy for Von.

"We knew when we drafted him back in 2011 with the second pick, and I still say it ... I haven't seen a more talented guy, physically, than Von. It was a matter of him channeling all of his talents in the right way and I think you saw him do that this year. He picked up momentum, and the bigger that the game got, the bigger he played."

Miller had 2 1-2 sacks and an interception of Tom Brady in the AFC championship, then had 2 1-2 sacks and two forced fumbles of Newton in the Super Bowl that led to 15 points for the Broncos.

That led NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell to say: "What an extraordinary player. He played his lights out and led his team to ... one of the best defensive performances in the history of the game."

Although signing Miller to a long-term extension in Elway's top priority, he also wants to keep quarterback Brock Osweiler and defensive lineman Malik Jackson in Denver.

In Washington, year ago at this time, Kirk Cousins was relegated to backup status with the Redskins, owned a resume that included only nine NFL starts and more interceptions than touchdowns, and was playing under a four-year rookie contract barely worth a total of more than $2.5 million.

Oh, how things have changed.

Coming off a breakthrough season for their quarterback, the Redskins announced Tuesday they placed the non-exclusive franchise tag on Cousins, setting him up to earn about $20 million next season and making sure he doesn't become an unrestricted free agent next week.

Tuesday was the deadline for teams to use a franchise or transition tag. By choosing the non-exclusive franchise tag, the Redskins allow Cousins to talk to other clubs, but Washington would be allowed to match any offer - or receive a pair of first-round draft picks as compensation should he leave.

The franchise tag for a quarterback in 2016 is $19.953 million. The Redskins now have until July 15 to negotiate with Cousins on a longer contract.

Cousins' fourth year in the league was his first as a full-time starter, taking the job from Robert Griffin III late in preseason and never letting go, while leading Washington to an NFC East title after six last-place finishes in the previous seven seasons.

Cousins led the NFL with a 69.8 percent completion rate, set a league record with a home completion mark of 74.7 percent, and finished with 29 touchdowns, 11 interceptions, a franchise-record 4,166 yards and a passer rating of 101.6. He helped the Redskins close the regular season with four consecutive wins for a 9-7 mark; they lost to the Green Bay Packers in the wild-card round.

He played his best football in the second half of the regular season, throwing for 23 TDs with only three interceptions over the final 10 games. And Cousins was one of only two NFL QBs who had at least one scoring pass in all 16 games, along with Seattle's Russell Wilson.

Cousins was a fourth-round draft choice in 2012, the same year Griffin arrived in Washington as the No. 2 overall selection after a massive trade with the St. Louis Rams cost the Redskins a bevy of high draft picks.

After second-year head coach Jay Gruden opted to make the change from Griffin, Cousins wound up starting all 17 games, including the postseason.

Yankees closer Chapman agrees to accept 30-game suspension

NEW YORK (AP)—New York Yankees closer Aroldis Chapman agreed to accept a 30-game suspension under Major League Baseball's domestic violence policy, a penalty stemming from an altercation with his girlfriend last October.

Under the discipline announced Tuesday, the four-time All-Star will serve the penalty from the start of the Yankees' season on April 4. He will lose 30 days of pay - $1,856,557 of his $11,325,000 salary. The agreement specifies he will be eligible for free agency after this season barring any additional suspension for off-the-field conduct that would cost him the necessary service time.

"I found Mr. Chapman's acknowledged conduct on that day to be inappropriate ... particularly his use of a firearm and the impact of that behavior on his partner," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said in a statement. "I am gratified that Mr. Chapman has taken responsibility for his conduct."

Chapman became the first player penalized a finite number of games under the policy, which MLB and the players' association agreed to in August following several high-profile incidents among NFL players. Colorado shortstop Jose Reyes was given an indefinite paid suspension last week, pending a trial scheduled for April 4, following an alleged altercation with him wife in October.

Baseball's investigation of Chapman stemmed from Oct. 30. Chapman's girlfriend, 22-year-old Cristina Barnea, told police he pushed and choked her. Chapman said there was an argument but that he was pushed down by Barnea's brother, eventually getting a handgun and firing eight shots into a wall and window while locked in his garage.

The Davie Police Department and Broward Assistant State Attorney Stefanie Newman declined to file charges, saying conflicting accounts and insufficient evidence made a conviction unlikely. Under MLB's domestic violence policy, discipline does not have to be predicated on a conviction.

Chapman, the hardest-throwing pitcher in the major leagues, was traded from the rebuilding Cincinnati Reds to the Yankees in December. He had said he would contest any suspension, but a deal was reached following negotiations with MLB.

"I want to be clear, I did not in any way harm my girlfriend that evening," Chapman said in a statement. "However, I should have exercised better judgment with respect to certain actions, and for that I am sorry. The decision to accept a suspension, as opposed to appealing one, was made after careful consideration. I made this decision in an effort to minimize the distractions that an appeal would cause the Yankees, my new teammates and most importantly, my family."

Chapman's representatives and MLB had been discussing the discipline for about 10 days. A suspension of 46 days or longer would have delayed his chance to become a free agent until after the 2017 season.

Leicester's title bid falters, Chelsea wins again

MANCHESTER, England (AP)—Leicester's unlikely Premier League title challenge faltered with a 2-2 home draw with West Bromwich Albion on Tuesday, offering Tottenham the chance to go top in another twist to the most unpredictable race for the championship in years.

Moving three points clear of the world's richest league was nothing to celebrate for Leicester's despondent players, who wasted a slew of late chances to put a provisional five-point gap over Spurs.

"Just sometimes you can do everything but the ball doesn't want to go in," said Leicester manager Claudio Ranieri, who has turned a team that narrowly avoided relegation last season into a title contender.

Tottenham is away to West Ham on Wednesday, while the title hopes of fellow contenders Arsenal and Manchester City—third and fourth respectively—were also boosted by Leicester dropping points.

Resurgent Chelsea moved into eighth place and within sight of the European places by beating Norwich 2-1, extending its unbeaten league run since Jose Mourinho was fired before Christmas to 12 games. Young Brazilian left back Kenedy scored after 39 seconds—the quickest goal of the season so far—to set Chelsea on its way to victory.

At the bottom, Aston Villa's fans staged a mass walkout after the last-place team sunk nearer relegation with a 3-1 home loss to Everton. Villa Park had already started to empty when thousands of fans departed in the 74th minute—when Villa was 3-0 down—to mark the year the club was founded, 1874.

"The situation is difficult but we have to fight until the end," said Villa manager Remi Garde, whose team is eight points from safety with 10 games left.

AP

Leicester's Marc Albrighton, right, attempts to beat West Brom's Ben Foster during the English Premier League soccer match between Leicester City and West Bromwich Albion at the King Power Stadium in Leicester, England, Tuesday, March 1, 2016.

Over $8K at stake in Saipan Marathon

This year's 11th Saipan Marathon set for April 16 will be offering more than $8,000 in cash prizes to the fastest runners in all categories.

The additional support is being contributed by celebrity marathon supporter Kanpei Hazama and Kofuji Distribution Co. of Japan.

In addition to the $1,000 sponsored annually by the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands for each top male and female finishers, this year, the male and female winners of 50K, full marathon, half marathon, and 10K courses will be awarded cash prizes.

"Thanks to the generosity of Kanpei Hazama, who has promoted and supported the marathon for six years now, and Kofuji Distribution Co., this year's prize money will increase significantly and marathon runners have a lot more to get excited about," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "And for those running non-competitively, there will still be a generous amount of time to finish the course, so we expect attracting more participants for both reasons."

The 1,000,000 Yen prize money will be exchanged prior to the race, but the estimated prize money based on the exchange rate of Feb. 25 would be as follows:

The top male and female finishers (fastest in total) of the 50K course created by Hazama will be awarded $2,673 each; the top male and female finishers (fastest in total) of the full marathon course will get $891 awarded each; the top male and female finishers (fastest in total) of the half marathon course will be awarded $623 each; and the top male and female finishers (fastest in total) of 10K course will be awarded $267 each.

Registration for the 50K and marathon is $65 for US and NMI participants ($100 for international participants), and $55 for half marathon and 10K participants ($70 for international participants). The last day to register for the event will be on March 18 at 5pm. Registration will include the awards banquet, a finishers t-shirt, and a certificate of completion.

"Each year, the Saipan Marathon improves in terms of organization and execution, thanks to the great team we have working on it," said MVA Community Projects specialist Ed Diaz, who is taking the lead on this year's marathon. "The additional cash prizes will make this year's marathon even better."

The start will take place at the American Memorial Park at 4am for the 50K and the marathon, at 5am for the half-marathon, and at 5:45am for the 10K. The cut-off time will be 8:30 am at the halfway point at the Department of Public Safety sub-station in Garapan.

All competitors are required to pick up their race packets on April 15 at 4pm at Paseo de Marianas without exception.

Entry forms are available at the MVA office located in on Beach Rd. in San Jose or on the MVA official website Event Calendar at www.mymarianas.com. For more information, contact Diaz at the MVA at 670.664.3210 or through email at ediaz@mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

ENFORCERS

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single in the fifth to move the Red Sox within 5, 3-8, before Rangamar stole home in the sixth for a 9-3 lead.

Anson remained on target, unloading another two-RBI single at the top of the seventh, while Christian Lizama had an RBI single to bring the deficit down to three, with two outs. However, the Red Sox fell short in their comeback bid, as a 6-3 putout play against Andres Camacho stranded the team's three runners and wrapped up the match in favor of the Enforcers.

In the other Senior League game over the weekend, the Falcons blanked the Comets, thanks to the steady pitching of starter Kekuni Kaainoa and his reliever Jun Atalig and the defense of their fielders.

Kaainoa pitched four innings, allowing only one hit, walking one, and striking four. Atalig had five strikeouts, including a 1-2-3 at the top of the seventh inning. The Falcons infielders and outfielders combined for seven fly outs and with their defense holding on, the Comets made it to as far as third base only once.

On offense, Jay Kalen gave the Falcons a 3-0 advantage off his two-RBI single at the bottom of the second. The other run was scored by Kimo Angailen off an error from the Comets, while the Falcons got one more run in the fourth inning off Kaainoa's RBI double.

JUNIOR LEAGUE
Enforcers 5, Red Sox 4

The Enforcers were also victorious in the Junior League game last Sunday after nipping the Red Sox.

Ignacio Mendiola made the game-winning hit as his single drove Chris Achas home and broke the deadlock at the bottom of the seventh inning. Before Mendiola's shot came, the Enforcers were already called for two outs.

It was a come-from-behind win for the Enforcers as they entered the bottom of the seven staring a 3-4 deficit. A run from leadoff batter Pedro Maratita off a Red Sox error at third base tied the match and the standoff remained as the Enforcers' next two batters were beaten to first base. Achas was next at bat and moved to first off a Red Sox error and eventually made it home, thanks to Mendiola's single.

PAIRE

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goal in the second half with his shot in the 62nd minute, while Cruzat and Kim hit the board in the 67th and 74th.

BOYS U14
Paire 5, Kanoa 4

Paire had a fruitful Week 3 in the youth league, as it also won its boys U14 match against Kanoa.

With the victory, Paire earned a 2-0-1 win-draw-loss record, the same mark Matansa, MP United, and Tan Holdings have.

Kaden Church registered the winning goal in the 64th minute to complete a hat-trick. His two other goals came in the 34th and 55th minute. Raffy Lee nailed the other goal for Paire in the 63rd minute, while the team also got a goal in the 45th off a Kanoa error.

Kanoa lost despite taking a 3-1 halftime lead. Sebastien Manabat, Kirk Andon and Ian Karl Maniago lit up the board in the fifth, eighth, and 23rd minute to give Kanoa a good start. However, the team could not keep the momentum in the second half, as only Maniago scored in the final frame, while Church led Paire's comeback bid.

Tan Holdings 6, Matansa 1

Tan Holdings notched its second straight win after dropping its season debut following a rout against Matansa.

Mark Esalan paced Tan Holdings with his double, while Joshua Waldo, Taka Borja, John Paul Cruz, and Agelo Batino contributed one goal apiece. Iverson Santos recorded the lone goal for Matansa.

Esalan earned his pair in back-to-back fashion (second and 23rd minute), while Waldo scored in the 31st for a 3-1 Tan Holdings lead. Matansa avoided a shutout in the first half when Santos found the back of the net in the 16th minute.

Tan Holdings went on to add three more runs in the second half with Borja lighting up the board in the 38th and Cruz and Batino doing the same in the 49th and 68th.

MP United 12, Shirley's 1

MP United also won a lopsided match against Shirley's FC.

Rintaro Miyawaki, Reginal Pascual, and Oliver Lee posted three goals apiece for MP United, which got two goals from Go Sekiguchi and one from Jason Quimzon. Shirley's lone goal came from Brandon Tenorio.

ISLAND'S

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Sanguyo chipped in 21, a fitting follow-up to his 19-point production versus Kauila.

The burly Duenas scored 5 of Island's Best's last 7 points, including three important free throws down the stretch to keep his team on top. Angelo Fernando recorded the 2 other points and knocked in all his 8 in the final canto to help Duenas when Sanguyo slowed down in the payoff period.

With Duenas in his usual fiery form, Island's Best led at the end of each quarter. It took a 22-17 cushion off Duenas' 8 markers and the team kept the upper hand at halftime, 44-39, as the former Saipan Southern High School standout added 8, while Sanguyo matched his teammate's output.

Duenas then had his breakout game in the third, tallying 12, while Ivan Devero reported late for the match, but contributed quickly with his 6 markers to help Island's Best retain the upper hand, 68-65. Sanguyo scored the 4 other points of Island's Best in the third before leaving Duenas to take the cudgels for the team in the final canto.

GMI Market's Jethro Cruz tried to counter Duenas' hot shooting, but fell short, as he ended up with 19 markers and his team failed to get its second win after stunning defending champion San Antonio last week, 89-87.

Meanwhile, San Antonio played its third game last Tuesday against CES Electronics, but the match was suspended due to rain.

CES was leading at the 5:27 mark of the third canto, 54-51, when the match was halted. CES dominated the first half after starting the game with an 11-0 run. The first period concluded with CES still enjoying the top view, 15-7. Syl Teregeyo scored 8 points in opening canto for CES.

CES kept the driver's seat at halftime despite a 31-point explosion from San Antonio, thanks to James Kintz's 9 markers and a lot of support from his teammates.

San Antonio also had a balance offense in the second canto to make up for a bad start and it continued to move closer before rain suspended the game. Mike Arciaga scored the last 6 points for San Antonio before the match was stopped, while Derrick Rangamar hit back-to-back triples to keep CES on top.

Island's Best 88 — Duenas 36, Sanguyo 21, Devero 6, Fernando 8, Joyner 6, Chopitea 4, Usi 4, Bongolan 2, King 1.

GMI Market 86 — Cruz 19, Ong 13, Ito 11, Alipio 11, Kintaro 10, Sablan 9, Santos 6, Nakashima 2, Atalig 1.

Scoring by quarters: 22-17, 44-39, 68-65, 88-86.

16th PIC Tennis Championships Winners

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Malika Miyawaki, left, and Conatsu Kaga are all smiles after receiving their girls U14 singles trophies during the awards ceremony for the 16th PIC Tennis Championships held last Sunday at Pacific Islands Club.

Men's Open singles champion Jeff Race, left, and runner-up Moris Villanueva shake hands.

Women's Open singles champion Carol Lee, left, and runner-up Isabel Heras pose with their trophies.

Women's 3.0 singles champion Erika Tuttle, left, is joined by runner-up Sakiko Eda during the awards presentation.

Robbie Schorr, left, and Michael Ren show the boys U16 singles championship and runner-up trophies.

Richard Steele, left, and his father Randy show their men's 3.0 doubles championship trophies, while tournament director Keoni Ichihara joins them in the group photo. Ichihara also played in the same division with June Keller.

From left, men's 4.0 doubles runners-up Nicky Nichols and Donn Dunlop and champion Gary Ramsey (who teamed up with son Colin) are all smiles after getting their trophies from Pacific Islands Club's Glenn Policare.

From left, mixed Open doubles champions Jeff Race and Isabel Heras and runners-up Mikayla Lopez and Moris Villanueva pose for a group photo.

Curry-less Warriors top Hawks to stay perfect at home

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United's Joshua Abragan, right, loses his balance after colliding with a Paire defender as they battle for the ball during the second half of their boys U17 game in the NMIFA youth league last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Paire stuns MP United

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Paire Football Club pulled off an early upset this season after beating boys U17 division leader MP United, 1-0, during their game in the 2016 NMIFA Youth Spring League last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Harry Huh made the dagger with less than a minute left in the 80-minute match. Huh delivered the winning goal, as he was temporarily left open to attack when MP United players, in their eagerness to score, loaded the other half of the pitch. Huh capitalized on MP United's defensive lapse and went for the shot, which was partially blocked by goalie Clayton Izuka, but still rolled in.

The win was Paire's first in the season after dropping its opener against Matansa early last month. The victory was also the first for Paire against MP United in the last two or three years of the youth league (boys division's higher age group).

Before absorbing the sorry loss, MP United won its first two games this season to take the lead in the U17 age group. It had a chance to score first against Paire early in the second half, but Edwin Kim's penalty shot went wide to the right.

In the other boys U17 division match, Matansa cruised past Kanoa, 8-0, to bag its first win in two games.

Jun Sik Kim lifted Matansa to the easy win after drilling a hat-trick. Evan Belcher and Jamesbonie Valdez added two goals apiece, while Carlson Cruzat added one.

Kim tallied back-to-back goals (fifth and 22nd minute), while Belcher duplicated the feat in the 34th and 36th before Valdez closed out for Matansa in the first half with his goal in the 39th for a commanding 5-0 advantage. Valdez also logged Matansa's first

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Island's Best wins again; CES leads San Antonio

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Island's Best Choice made it two in a row following an 88-86 win over GMI Market in the curtain-raiser in the DL Corp Invitational Basketball League Season 5 last Tuesday at the San Antonio court.

Matt Duenas and Paolo Sanguyo are proving to be a lethal combination for Island's Best, as they again led the team's victory. Duenas sizzled for 36 points against GMI Market after firing 28 in their 85-72 triumph over Kauila Enterprises last week.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CES Electronics' Syl Teregeyo pulls up for a shot against San Antonio's Emerson Feria during the first quarter of their rain-suspended game in the DL caging last Tuesday at the San Antonio court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kagman Enforcers' Jose Camacho delivers a pitch, while a Red Sox runner looks on during their Senior League game in the SLLB last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Enforcers, Falcons top foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion Kagman Enforcers and the Falcons prevailed in the opening week games in the Senior League division of the 2016 Saipan Little League Baseball.

The Enforcers outclassed the Red Sox, 9-6, last Saturday at Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, while the Falcons shut down the Comets, 4-0, last Sunday.

The Enforcers used a six-run bottom of the fourth inning to build enough cushion and withstood the Red Sox's rally at the top of the seventh to start their title defense bid on a positive note.

The Enforcers were only ahead by one, 2-1, after two and a half innings when they scored six runs at the bottom of the third to gain some distance against the Red Sox. Shakobe Rangamar hit a two-RBI single, and Jimboy Laniyo had a two-RBI double in that run, while Dominic Yumul made an RBI single for an 8-1 advantage.

The Red Sox got their first run from Nathan Anson, who scored the first homer in the division at the top of the third. He also delivered a two-RBI

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